

People Jesus Met - The Centurion

Luke 7:1-10

The Centurion's Servant

The Roman centurion stood before his soldiers. There were a hundred in all, each and every man sworn to do whatever the centurion commanded.

'Fetch my sword,' he ordered.

'Yes, sir! Right away, sir!' shouted one of the soldiers. And he was off in a flash.

'Fetch my shield!' he added.

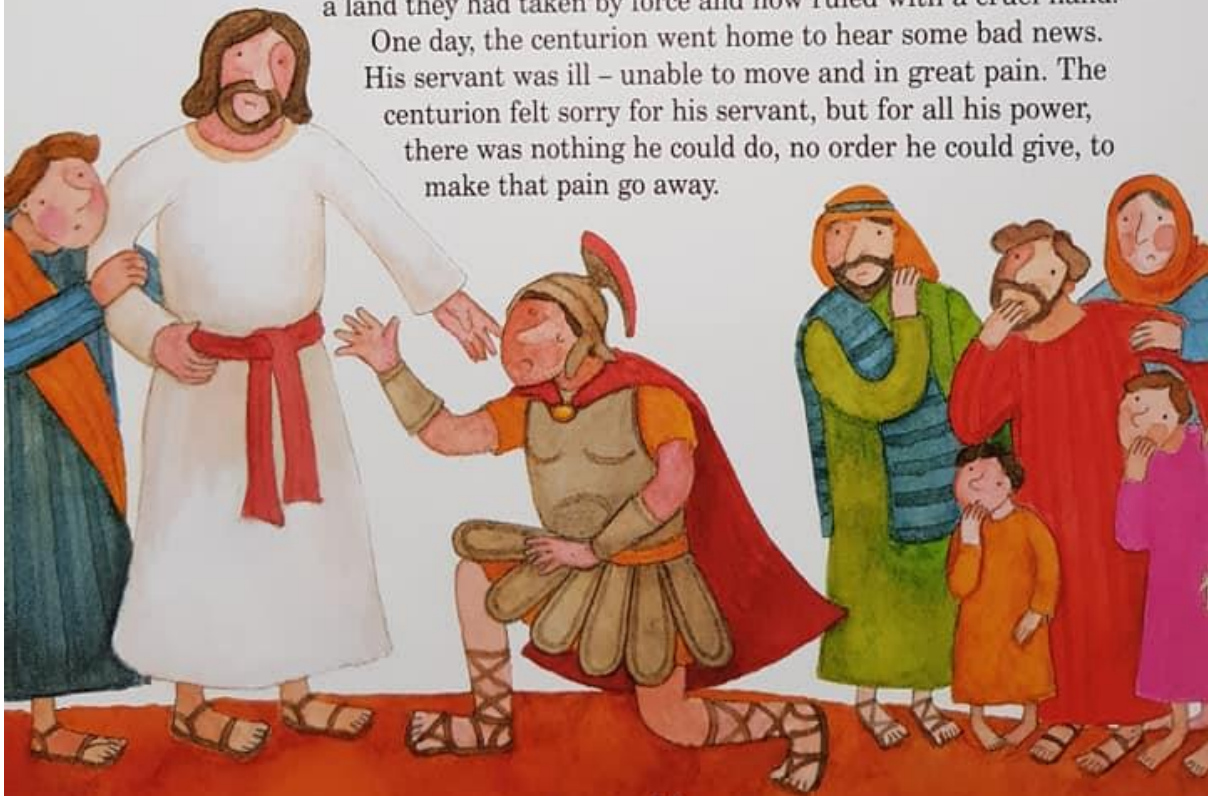
'Yes, sir! Right away, sir!' And another soldier ran off as well.


'Forward march!' he shouted once everything was ready.

'Yes, sir! Right away, sir!' answered each and every man. And they marched off together through the streets of Capernaum.

The centurion was used to giving orders. And he was used to being obeyed. Not only by his men, but by the people of Capernaum as well. For the Romans were in charge of that city and all the land where Jesus lived – a land they had taken by force and now ruled with a cruel hand.

One day, the centurion went home to hear some bad news. His servant was ill – unable to move and in great pain. The centurion felt sorry for his servant, but for all his power, there was nothing he could do, no order he could give, to make that pain go away.





So the centurion went to see Jesus. He'd heard that Jesus made sick people well, and so his request was simple.

'Help me sir,' he said. 'My servant is terribly ill.'

The people standing round Jesus wondered what he would do. This centurion and his soldiers had bullied them and stolen from them and pushed them around. Would Jesus do for this man what he had for so many others?

But there was no question in Jesus' mind. He had taught his followers to love everyone, even their enemies. How could he do any less?

'I will go and heal him,' he said.

And then the centurion said something that surprised them all.

'No,' he said. And could it be that he was remembering all the cruel things he had done? 'I do not deserve to have you visit my house. But I do know this. I am a man with power and authority. I tell my soldiers to fetch this and they do it, saying, "Yes, sir! Right away, sir!" I tell them to fetch something else, and the answer is the same. "Yes, sir! Right away, sir!" And when I order them to march, they obey. "Yes, sir! Right away, sir!"

'You have power too, power over sickness. So all you need to do is give the order and I know that my servant will be healed.'

Jesus turned to those around him, amazed. 'This man trusts me, he really does! I have not found this kind of trust even among our own people. And I'm telling you the truth when I say that people just like this man – people from all over the world – will one day be a part of all that God is doing. But, because they do not trust me, some of our own people will miss out.'

Then he turned to the centurion and said, 'Go. All that you hope for will happen.'

And at that very hour, the centurion's servant was healed.

'Yes, sir! Right away, sir!'



*Do you know what a
centurion is?*

*It's another name for
a soldier.*

Talk about it

- How did the centurion feel when he found out his servant was sick and what did he decide to do?
- Why did the centurion take his servant to see Jesus?
- How did Jesus know the centurion trusted him?
- How can you show faith like the centurion?

Activities

- Write a script and act out the story with your family.
- Make a soldier's helmet to remind you of the centurion's faith.

You can print the template at the end of this document, draw the template yourself if you don't have a printer, or follow this video tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_UI-yHlako

- Make a puppet of a sick man using a toilet roll tube and plasters or bandages. You could make a few and use them to help you pray - some could represent people you know who need healing, some could represent people you know who you want to thank God for healing and some could represent doctors and nurses, thanking God for the work they do. As you pray, lift each puppet up and think about who it represents.



Pray

Dear God,

Thank you for caring about all people. Please help us to do the same and to have faith like the centurion.

Amen.

The Faith of the Centurion wordsearch

G X T W V T Q C C S D T I H U
Z H O X Q V U E F I E F T S K
P F G C Q C N B T C Z I X Z K
Y V X C W T H D Z K A M A C D
T O B U U G R W E F M B P K V
A I L R C H M L B L A W W L X
D Y I O O J X Z V E A T B X H
J O Y T I R O H T U A E Z Y R
N E V O L T H D A F O M H R M
F J S T J Q F G T X F D Z Z B
I G W U N D S A N X J J B Z K
A D Q H S U V Y T E S G E Y M
F W E K U P O W E R G V O P I
P L V L F W D I N L G S I G J
P W O V Z F K Z V F A N I J L

AMAZED
AUTHORITY
CENTURION
FAITH
HEALED
HELP
JESUS
LOVE

Can you help Jesus find his way through Capernaum to the house?

