

## **The Centurion's Servant**

A Lesson Set written by Beth Tobin from:  
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## **Movie Workshop: Hollywood Studio**

Teaching method: View segments from DVD's showing the healing miracles of Jesus. Introduce the concept of Jesus' authority over everything and discuss how the centurion understood Jesus' authority. How can we show our understanding of Jesus' authority?

Leader Preparation:

Read the scripture for this lesson. Matthew 8:1-12

Read and reflect on the overview material provided for this lesson.

Preview the DVDs and know how to cue to the correct starting place.

Gather the following materials:

Bibles

DVD: "The Miracles of Jesus," *The Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible*.

DVD: "The Miracles of Jesus," *Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible*.

Popcorn and cups or napkins to serve the popcorn.

Before Start of Class:

1. Prepare popcorn.
2. Make sure you know how to use the DVD and projection system.

### **Opening:**

Greet your students warmly, welcoming them to your workshop. Introduce yourself and any other adults. Shepherds will be taking attendance while you are starting your lesson.

Ask: When your parents, caregivers, or teachers tell you to do something, what do you do? Allow time for sharing examples of respecting authority.

Say: Our parents, caregivers, and teachers have authority over us. Why is it important to listen to them and to do what they say?

In the movies segments we watch today, we will learn about Jesus having authority over all the Earth - even over sin, illness and death.

Let's pray:

Dear Lord,

Thank you for our time together today and for everyone here! Thank you for loving us and caring for us. Help us to learn more about you and your authority over the Earth. Amen.

### **Dig In:**

Distribute Bibles. (Encourage bringing Bibles - 3rd grade and up.)

Ask: Where in the Bible would we read about Jesus healing people? (New Testament)

What are the first four books of the New Testament?

What do we call those first four books? (the Gospels)

Say: The word Gospel means "good news". The good news about Jesus is that he has God's power to heal and forgive sins. Jesus forgives our sins.

Have everyone find Matthew 8:5-13. Read the scripture together. [See 'Review the Organization of the Bible.']

Ask: What was a centurion? (soldier in charge of 100 soldiers)

Ask: How did the centurion think his servant could be healed without Jesus coming to his house? (He understood authority and knew that Jesus could just say the word and his servant would be healed.) Jesus says He had never seen such faith in all of Israel.

Let's watch this movie segment.

"The Miracles of Jesus" - Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible

13:20 - 15:15

Notice how the centurion was humble before Jesus. He states he is not worthy to have Jesus come to his house, and is open to the whatever Jesus says.

Before Jesus came, people thought that if you were sick, you had done

something bad and the illness was your punishment, Jesus says, not so. We do not know why people get sick, but we do know that God doesn't want for us to be sick.

One of the reasons Jesus healed people was to help them learn that he had authority over our sins, sickness, and even death.

The centurion had great faith - faith that impressed Jesus - and his faith allowed him to accept the healing of his servant.

[Optional information to share: the centurion was not a follower of Jesus. He was not a Jew, but he was able to recognize the authority Jesus held. Translation for today: Everyone is capable of being healed whether they believe in Jesus or not, but it is our faith - our belief in Jesus - that allows us to accept being healed.]

We will watch a few movie segments. You will be learning more about these stories in your other workshops. This next one shows a blind man being healed.

"The Miracles of Jesus" - Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible  
17:20 - 18:50

Another important reason Jesus healed people was to help his disciples understand better who he was. The more Jesus healed, the more news spread about him and more and more people came to listen to him and learn about God.

In the next segment we will see a Leper being healed. A leper is a person who has a skin disease that passes from one person to the next very easily. Lepers had to warn people that they were sick and had to stay away from towns and villages and family members.

"The Miracles of Jesus" Greatest Heroes and Legends.  
Scene Index: Chapter 3, 21:08-22:54

Not only is this man made clean, he can now be with his family! One of the ways the Bible talks about being made clean is that we are forgiven for our sins. In the next segment, we will see how a man is lowered through a roof by some very good friends. The man cannot walk - he is paralyzed, and the friends wish for him to be healed. The first thing Jesus does is to forgive him his sins. This makes the Chief Priests and Scribes very upset! They shout "blasphemy!" They believe that only God has the power to forgive sins. Again to show he has the authority to forgive sins and to heal, Jesus tells the man to get up and walk. Let's watch.

“The Miracles of Jesus” Greatest Heroes and Legends.

Scene Index: Chapter 4, 24:20 - 26:44

The friends brought the paralytic to Jesus for healing. What did Jesus do first? (Forgave his sins.)

Part of being healthy is to have our sins forgiven. When we pray to God to ask for forgiveness we are forgiven, made clean, made whole. When we pray to Jesus for healing we need to trust him. We need to trust that Jesus will give us what we need: that might be healing, or it might be the ability to live with our illness and for God to use our illness to do great things. One thing we know is that God will never ever leave us. We trust God.

Trusting in God is having great faith. Trusting in God is understanding his authority over everything: sins, illness, and death. Trusting in God is knowing he will never ever leave us.

Our memory verse talks about healing and being forgiven. Let's look it up. James 5:16a. The NRSV version says: Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

### **Extra Activities**

Review the memory verse by playing Scripture Simon Says:

The teacher is Scripture Simon and begins by giving the first word of the key verse. The children respond by repeating it. Continue on in this fashion and then insert an incorrect word. The children must remain silent or they must start over. At first, the verse should be displayed for the children to follow, but after a few repetitions, remove the verse from view. The game would sound like this:

Leader: Therefore

Class: Therefore

Leader: confess

Class: confess

Leader: your

Class: your

Leader: sandwich .....sins.....

Class: (should remain silent)

Closing:

Let's pray that God will help us grow in faith and trust. Thank you God for always being with us and never leaving us. When we pray for someone who is sick, we know you can heal them, and we trust you to do what is best. Amen.

**Resources:**

Crane, Amy. "Four Faithful Friends: Movie Workshop." 2003. (Closing material)  
<http://rotation.infopop.cc/groupee/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=4576068121&m=452609763>

"Prayer Blanket Project for Man Let Down Through the Roof." Online posting by Linnea. January 22, 2004.  
<http://rotation.infopop.cc/groupee/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=4576068121&m=302601426>

Senyard, Jamie. "Four Faithful Friends – Art Workshop." 2003. (Scripture Simon Says game)  
<http://rotation.infopop.cc/groupee/forums?a=tpc&s=1206067121&f=4576068121&m=452609763>

"The Man Let Down through the Roof: Creation Station." Faith Quest Lesson Sets at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church. 2001.  
<http://www.kirkofkildaire.org/quest/FQlessons/RoofCreation.htm>

Coloring page and crossword puzzle from  
<http://www.calvarychapel.org/children/site/pdf/New/Curr180.pdf>

Word search created at  
<http://www.awesomeclipartforkids.com/worksheets/schoolwordsearch.html>

Pattern for blanket from Project Linus website: Patterns and Links.  
<http://www.projectlinus.org/>

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Hulbert, Carol. Lesson set posted at rotation.org: The Lame Man with Four Friends. October 2004. Place URL where lesson found inside angle brackets<>.