

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power



THE CENTURION'S GREAT FAITH

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Arlington † Metroplex
Taking church to the people



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THE CENTURION'S GREAT FAITH

Memory Verse:

Jesus told His disciples: "Have faith in God!" (Mark 11:22 CEV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary the centurion was

#2 - Discover what obedience led the centurion to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Matthew 8:5-13

Luke 7:1-10



THE CENTURION'S GREAT FAITH

Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: A Roman Centurion

His Heroic Feat: Exercised Great Faith

Exercising great faith may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Lately we have learned about John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. We also learned about Jesus choosing twelve disciples out of all the people who followed Him. After a pretty well known teaching session on the side of a mountain (the Sermon on the Mount), Jesus left the hill that sloped down into the Sea of Galilee and went to the nearby town of Capernaum.

When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, He was met by some Jewish leaders. They begged Jesus to help a friend of theirs. You see, their friend was a Roman soldier. He was actually the leader of Roman soldiers, a centurion, who commanded 100 men. The Roman Centurion didn't feel like he had a right to come into Jesus' presence, much less ask anything of Him. That is why the Jewish leaders were there. They respected the Roman Centurion. They explained to Jesus that he loved the nation of Israel and had even built their synagogue with his own money.

Then they told Jesus the problem. The Centurion had a servant boy (Luke 7:7 AMP) that he cared about very much. The boy was at home in bed. He couldn't move his body and he was in a lot of pain. In fact, he was so sick he was nearly dead. So Jesus went with them.

When they were almost at the centurion's house, the officer sent some friends to Jesus. They carried a message from the centurion, "Don't bother to come to my house, Lord. Who am I that you should come to my house? Just say the word and I know my servant boy will be well." And then the centurion explained that he understood about Jesus' authority. The centurion, too, was in authority over others, 100 Roman soldiers, to be exact. When he gave the order, his order was obeyed.

"When Jesus heard this, He was so surprised that He turned and said to the crowd following Him, "I tell you that in all of Israel I've never found anyone with this much faith!" (Matthew 8:10 CEV) This Roman had more faith than many of the Jews, God's chosen people!

Then, Jesus sent the messengers away. They found the servant boy “who had been ill quite well again.” (Luke 7:10 AMP) He was actually healed the instant Jesus “said the word.”

Let's look a little more closely at the Roman centurion. He was a disciplined man. He was in a position of authority. He heard about Jesus and must have believed what he heard. He was pretty sure about what he believed, so sure, in fact, that he acted on that belief, he called on Jesus for help. The centurion believed that Jesus was powerful enough to heal no matter where He was. He didn't have to be in the same room or same village, for that matter. The centurion had great faith in God. He exercised that faith, or put it into practice, when he asked Jesus just to “say the word.”

Do you have faith? What is it that you say you believe? Do you profess faith in Jesus Christ? What are you trusting Him to do in your life?

If you have any questions, let's talk.



YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. The Roman Centurion exercised great faith. The officer was powerless to help his servant boy, but he had heard of someone who could.

What problem are you struggling with today? Have you heard of the God who wants a friendship with you? “Jesus told his disciples: Have faith in God!” (Mark 11:22 CEV) Will you step out in faith and give your problems to Him? Then, you'll see God do things you could never have imagined!

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Exercising great faith may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We have learned about Jesus choosing twelve disciples out of all the people who followed Him. After teaching the disciples and others, from the side of a mountain, Jesus left the hill that sloped down into the Sea of Galilee and went to the nearby town of Capernaum.

When Jesus arrived in Capernaum, some Jewish leaders met Him. They begged Jesus to help a friend of theirs. You see, their friend was a Roman soldier. They respected the Romans. They explained to Jesus that he loved the nation of Israel and had even built their synagogue with his own money.

Then they told Jesus the problem. The soldier had a servant boy that he cared about very much. The boy was at home in bed. He was very sick. So Jesus went with them.

When they were almost at the soldier's house, the officer sent some friends to Jesus who said, "Don't bother to come to my house, Lord. Who am I that you should come to my house? Just say the word and I know my servant boy will be well."

"When Jesus heard this, He was so surprised that He turned and said to the crowd following Him, "I tell you that in all of Israel I've never found anyone with this much faith!" (Matthew 8:10 CEV) This Roman had more faith than many of the Jews, God's chosen people!

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ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse across the top of a piece of paper. Then, make an acrostic with the word "F-A-I-T-H," explaining what faith is. If you need help, review the lesson and Hebrews 11.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Have Faith in God," "Faith, Faith, Faith," "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Bring chocolate coins for snacks.
- Provide Roman crafts and games. Jacks and marbles are some of the games we play that originated in Rome.
- **For more training:** Read James 1:2-8 and Psalm 37:4. Discuss these passages in light of the lesson.

Jesus told his
disciples:

“Have faith
In God!”

Mark 11:22

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HERO IN TRAINING

The Centurion's Great Faith

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10

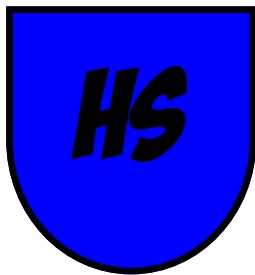
Memory verse:

Jesus told his disciples: "Have faith in God!" (Mark 11:22 CEV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read Luke 7:6-8. What do you learn about the Roman Centurion? What can you apply to your life to help you have faith in God and exercise that faith? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
When Jesus heard of the centurion's faith, what was His response?
Trace the letters below to find the answer.

When Jesus heard this, He was . . .

A M A Z E D

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- Jesus

- told

- His disciples

- Have faith

- in God

- centurion

- sick servant

- just say the word

- great faith

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

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When Jesus heard this, He was . . .

AMAZED

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

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