

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 18

An Army Officer's
Faith

Luke 7:1-10

Life of Christ

An Army Officer's Faith

Luke 7:1-10

Younger Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for.

Hebrews 11:1

Older Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

In our last lesson, we talked about how important it is to listen to God's message and obey His commands. When we do that, we are building our lives on a solid foundation. We can grow to be more like Christ and help others know Him.

After Jesus finished teaching the people, He went to a town called Capernaum. There was a Roman army officer there. He had authority over 100 soldiers. But this Roman was different than most of the others—He had faith in God.

The officer had a servant who was very sick and was about to die. When he heard that Jesus was in town, he asked some of the Jewish leaders to go find Jesus and ask Him to come and heal his servant.

So the Jewish leaders found Jesus. They begged Jesus to go with them to the officer's home. They told Jesus that the officer loved God's people and had built a synagogue for them. Do you remember what a synagogue is? It is a place where God's people go to worship Him, like a church.

Jesus decided to go with the men to the officer's home. They were almost there when some friends of the officer approached them. The officer had sent them to tell Jesus that He did not need to come to his house. He did not feel worthy to have Jesus come there. He knew that Jesus could heal his servant from far away.

The officer said that he understood what it was to have authority. He would tell one soldier to go, and he would go. Anything he told his soldiers to do, they would do. He knew that Jesus had authority to do all things. He had faith in Jesus!

Jesus was amazed at the officer's faith. He turned to the crowd that was following Him and said, "This man has the greatest faith I have found anywhere, even in Israel." Jesus meant that even

Lesson Goals

- Learn that Jesus had power to heal people's sickness
- Understand the importance of having faith in Jesus
- Learn what it means to be humble

the Jews, God's chosen people, did not have as much faith in Him as the Roman officer did. Wow!

After Jesus said that, the officer's friends went back to his house. And the officer's servant was completely well! Jesus had healed him!

Ask: Why do you think Jesus was amazed at the officer's faith in Him? This man was not an Israelite—he was *not* one of God's chosen people. He had not grown up learning about how to follow God. And yet this man believed that Jesus had power from God. Many of the Israelites did not believe that!

The officer had a high position in the army. He could have been too proud to ask Jesus to help him. He showed what it means to be **humble**. He did not think he was too good to ask for help.

Ask: Have you ever been afraid to ask for someone's help? Jesus was happy that this man asked Him to help. And He likes it when *we* ask Him for help, too!

Ask: Have you asked Jesus to save you from your sins? We cannot save ourselves. We need Jesus' help. That is why He died on the cross—to make a way for us to be right with Him. An important part of knowing God is admitting that we cannot do anything by ourselves. We really *do* need God's help.

Review Questions

1. What was the position of the man who came to Jesus? (Answer: Roman army officer)
2. Why did he ask Jesus for help? (Answer: His servant was very sick and was about to die.)
3. Why was Jesus amazed at the officer's faith? (Answer: The man was a Roman soldier, not an Israelite.)
4. What does it mean to humble yourself? (not being proud; putting others before yourself)

Life Application

The man in today's story cared enough about his servant to ask Jesus to heal the servant. And he trusted Jesus to heal his servant without even seeing him or going to his home. This took a lot of humility and faith.

Think of ways in our lives we can be more humble and have more faith in God. Examples: Invite others to church, help others that no one else wants to help, be friendly to everyone.

Planning for Lesson 19
The Dead Are Raised
Luke 7:11-23

Preschool Lesson for An Army Officer's Faith

(Teachers: If desired, bring army men toys as a visual for the story.)

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Jesus decided to go with the men to the officer's home. They were almost there when some friends of the officer came up to them. The officer had sent them to tell Jesus that He did not need to come to his house. He did not feel good enough to have Jesus come there. He knew that Jesus could heal his servant from far away.

The officer said that he understood what it was to have power over others. He would tell one soldier to go, and he would go. Anything he told his soldiers to do, they would do. He knew that Jesus had authority to do all things. He had faith in Jesus!

Jesus was amazed at the officer's faith. He turned to the crowd that was following Him and said, "This man has the greatest faith I have found anywhere, even in Israel." Jesus meant that even the Jews, God's chosen people, did not have as much faith in Him as the Roman officer did. Wow!

After Jesus said that, the officer's friends went back to his house. And the officer's servant was completely well! Jesus had healed him!

Ask: Have you ever been afraid to ask for someone's help? Jesus was happy that this man asked Him to help. And He likes it when *we* ask Him for help, too!

Ask: Have you asked Jesus to save you from your sins? We cannot save ourselves. We need Jesus' help. That is why He died on the cross—to make a way for us to be right with Him. An important part of knowing God is admitting that we cannot do anything by ourselves. We really *do* need God's help.

**Hands-on Activities
for
An Army Officer's Faith**

If the teacher has a camouflage outfit, it might be fun to wear it today for the story.

Create a paper hat helmet or use foil.

Make swords out of aluminum foil. Scrunch and shape foil into a long sword.

Make a shield out of a paper plate covered in foil. Talk about how our faith in God is our shield. This means our faith helps protect us from Satan's attacks!

Bring some long balloons and make swords. Talk about the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. We can fight temptation with Scripture!

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Word Search

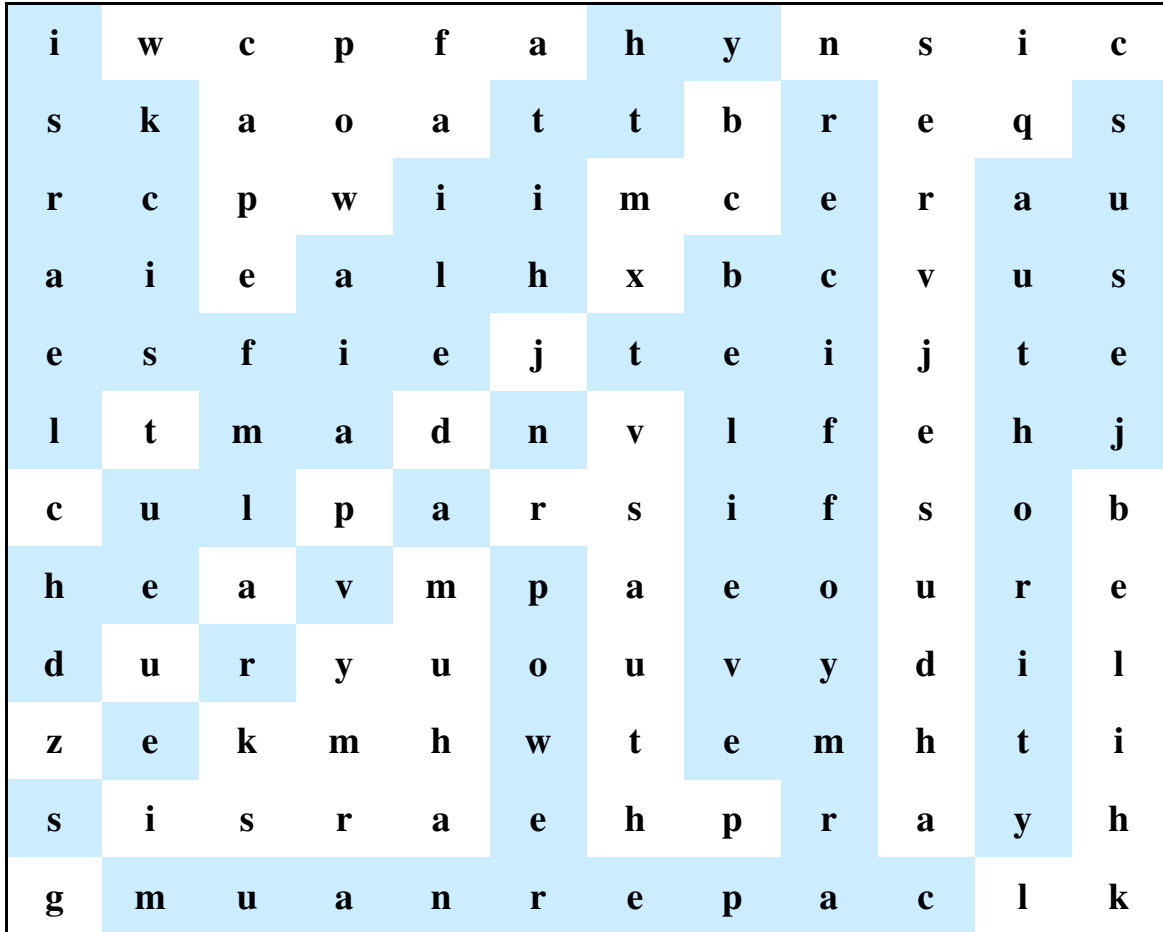
An Army Officer's Faith

i	w	c	p	f	a	h	y	n	s	i	c
s	k	a	o	a	t	t	b	r	e	q	s
r	c	p	w	i	i	m	c	e	r	a	u
a	i	e	a	l	h	x	b	c	v	u	s
e	s	f	i	e	j	t	e	i	j	t	e
l	t	m	a	d	n	v	l	f	e	h	j
c	u	l	p	a	r	s	i	f	s	o	b
h	e	a	v	m	p	a	e	o	u	r	e
d	u	r	y	u	o	u	v	y	d	i	l
z	e	k	m	h	w	t	e	m	h	t	i
s	i	s	r	a	e	h	p	r	a	y	h
g	m	u	a	n	r	e	p	a	c	l	k

army officer	servant	sick
Capernaum	authority	power
Jesus	healed	faith
humility	believe	Israel

Word Search

An Army Officer's Faith



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Capernaum	authority	power
Jesus	healed	faith
humility	believe	Israel

What did the army officer want Jesus
to do for him?

H__a__ his __er__an__

Jesus said the army officer
had great

FAITH