

General Church Education



Healing the Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-13

Lesson 15

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

HEALING THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

MATTHEW 8:5-13

Today we will read about one the miracles the Lord did in the New Testament. The miracles of the New Testament echo the truth told in the Old Testament miracles: the Lord has all power to heal and to save. Many of the miracles of both Testaments were accomplished as a result of the faith of the one seeking help.

The centurion in our story for today was a commander in the Roman army that was occupying Israel during the Lord's life. He recognized that the Lord's great power made it unnecessary for Him to go to his house to heal the servant. He trusted the Lord's all present power to be able to heal from a distance. As in so many of the Lord's miracles, faith opened the door for the Lord's power to heal.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Lord is present everywhere and with all people. The knowledge of this can bring us comfort in times of personal turmoil. It can also increase our joy and gratitude to Him during our happy times.
- The Lord responded to the faith of the centurion and healed the paralyzed servant. We can have faith in the Lord that He will do the same for us when we feel distant from Him and spiritually immobilized. When we turn to the Lord in heart, mind and deed we will be able to feel His healing presence in our lives.

FROM THE WRITINGS

Those who can see and are alive to it can grasp that God is everywhere present throughout the world as from this passage: "Am I a God near at hand, and not a God at a distance? Can a man lurk in a hiding-place so that I cannot see him? Do I not fill heaven and earth?" Jeremiah 23:23, 24. *True Christian Religion* 30

The Lord healed the centurion's servant and others according to their faith, because the first and primary thing of the church then to be established was to believe that the Lord is God Almighty, for without that faith no church could have been established. For the Lord was the God of heaven and the God of earth, with whom no conjunction is possible except by an acknowledgment of His Divinity, which acknowledgment is faith. The centurion evidently acknowledged the Lord to be God Almighty, and from this it is clear that it was faith in the Lord's omnipotence that healed. See *Apocalypse Explained* 815.3

HEALING THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord has all power, including power to heal the sick.

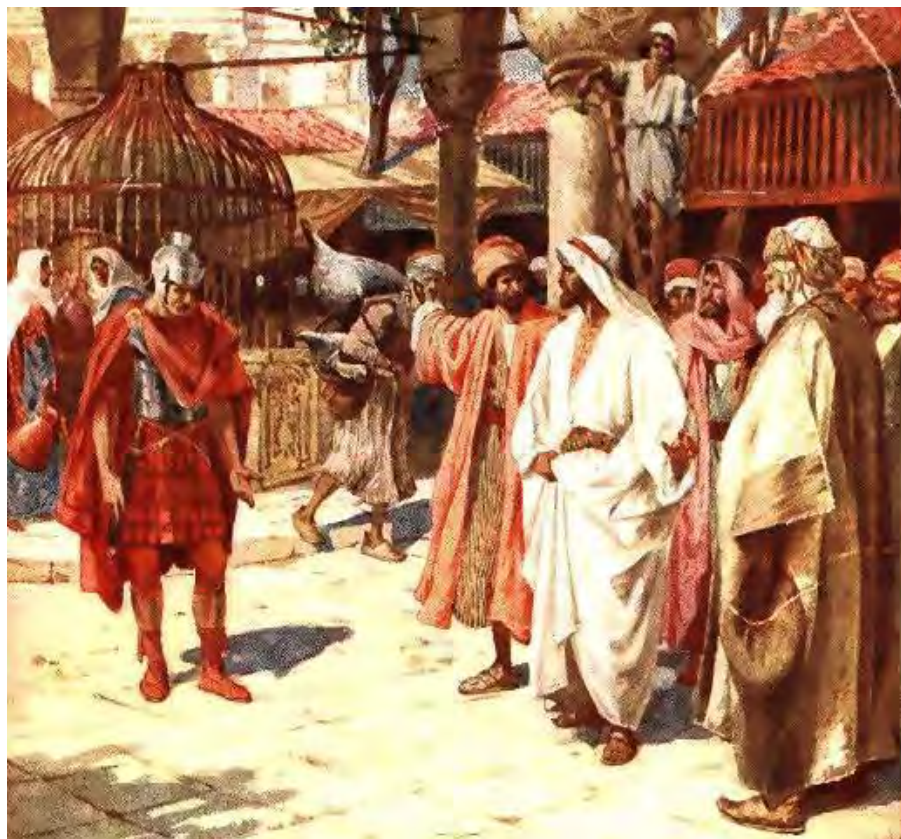
The Lord is always with us wherever we may go.

It is important to trust the Lord.

We have read about some of the miracles that were done by the Lord through two of His prophets, Elijah and Elisha. These stories were from the part of the Word called the Old Testament which was written before the Lord was born into the world. Our next six lessons are stories about miracles from the New Testament. This part of the Word was written after the Lords' birth and tells many things that He did while on earth.

The Lord came into the world to save people. He taught many things about how to live a good life that leads to heaven. He also performed many miracles that helped people. When we read about these miracles we can see how much love the Lord has and how much He wants to help people. We also can learn more about His great power.

Today's story tells how the Lord helped the servant of a soldier called a centurion. The servant was paralyzed. This means that he was not able to move at all and had to lie



still in his bed. The servant was very sad. He felt "tormented" because he was so sick. The centurion heard about the Lord and that He had great power to heal sick people. He came to the Lord asking for help for his servant. As we read the story, listen to the Lord's answer to the centurion.

Read Matthew 8:5-7.

The Lord told the centurion that He would go to his house to heal the servant. The centurion was a humble man. He knew that the Lord had power from God. The centurion didn't feel that he was worthy or good enough for the Lord to come into his house. He had faith in the Lord's power to heal, even if He was not near the sick person.

The centurion believed that all the Lord had to do was to speak and the servant would be healed.

Read Matthew 8:8-9.

The centurion was a commander of a hundred soldiers who would obey his every word. He had faith in the Lord. The centurion believed that the Lord's power was so great that He didn't have to actually be there to heal a person. The Lord could just say the word and the sickness would obey and leave the servant, just like soldiers obey their commander. Do you think the Lord was pleased with the centurion's answer?

Read Matthew 8:10 and 13.

The Lord praised the centurion for his "great faith." He sent the centurion home and promised that he would find his servant healed, just as he had believed would happen. When the centurion went home, he found the servant was not paralyzed any more. He had been miraculously healed at the very same time that the Lord said the words.



DISCUSSION

- We know that each of the Lord's miracles teaches us about His great power. What power of the Lord is described in our story today? *(The power to heal people from disease.)*
- In today's story the Lord showed us another wonderful thing about His power. Can you think of something that is different about how the Lord did miracles through Elijah and Elisha and how the Lord healed the centurion's servant? *(Elijah and Elisha did their miracles in person. They were right there. The Lord healed the servant from a distance.)*
- The Lord was with the servant of the centurion, even though it didn't look like it. The truth is, He is always with each of us no matter what we are doing or where we may go.
- Can you think of a time in your life when you were especially happy? The Lord was with you then. Can you think of a time when you may have been afraid or nervous? The Lord was with you then, too. He is always with you, taking care of the things that are important to the life of your spirit. What things could you do to help remember that the Lord is with you when you are afraid? *(Possible answers - recite a passage from the Word, say the Lord's Prayer, sing a hymn.)*
- What was special about the centurion that made it so the Lord could heal the servant? *(He had great faith in the Lord's ability to help.)*
- The faith of the centurion is another important part of today's story. We will see in many of our lessons about miracles that the Lord was able to do them because of the faith and trust that people put in Him. We have seen in earlier lessons that the same is still true for each one of us. Even when we may not feel the Lord to be near, we can know that He is close to us, looking after the things that will keep us spiritually healthy and on the road to heaven.
- In our next lesson, we will read about what happened to the disciples or followers of the Lord when they forgot to trust the Lord and have faith in Him.

HEALING THE CENTURION'S SERVANT | Activities

Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am
gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for
your souls.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30



When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

Song

- Thine Arm, O Lord, in Days of Old

Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-thine-arm-o-lord-in-days-of-old/>

Projects

- Healing the Centurion's Servant Diorama
- Picture to color

Additional Activity

- Pretend to be paralyzed. Lie still for as long as you can. Try to be still even if you want to move. After a while, let yourself stand up and walk, run and jump. Describe how hard it was not to move and how good it felt to be able to move again. Imagine being the centurion's servant and suddenly being able to move after being paralyzed.

Healing the Centurion's Servant Diorama

Create a diorama of the centurion's servant asking Jesus to come and heal his servant.

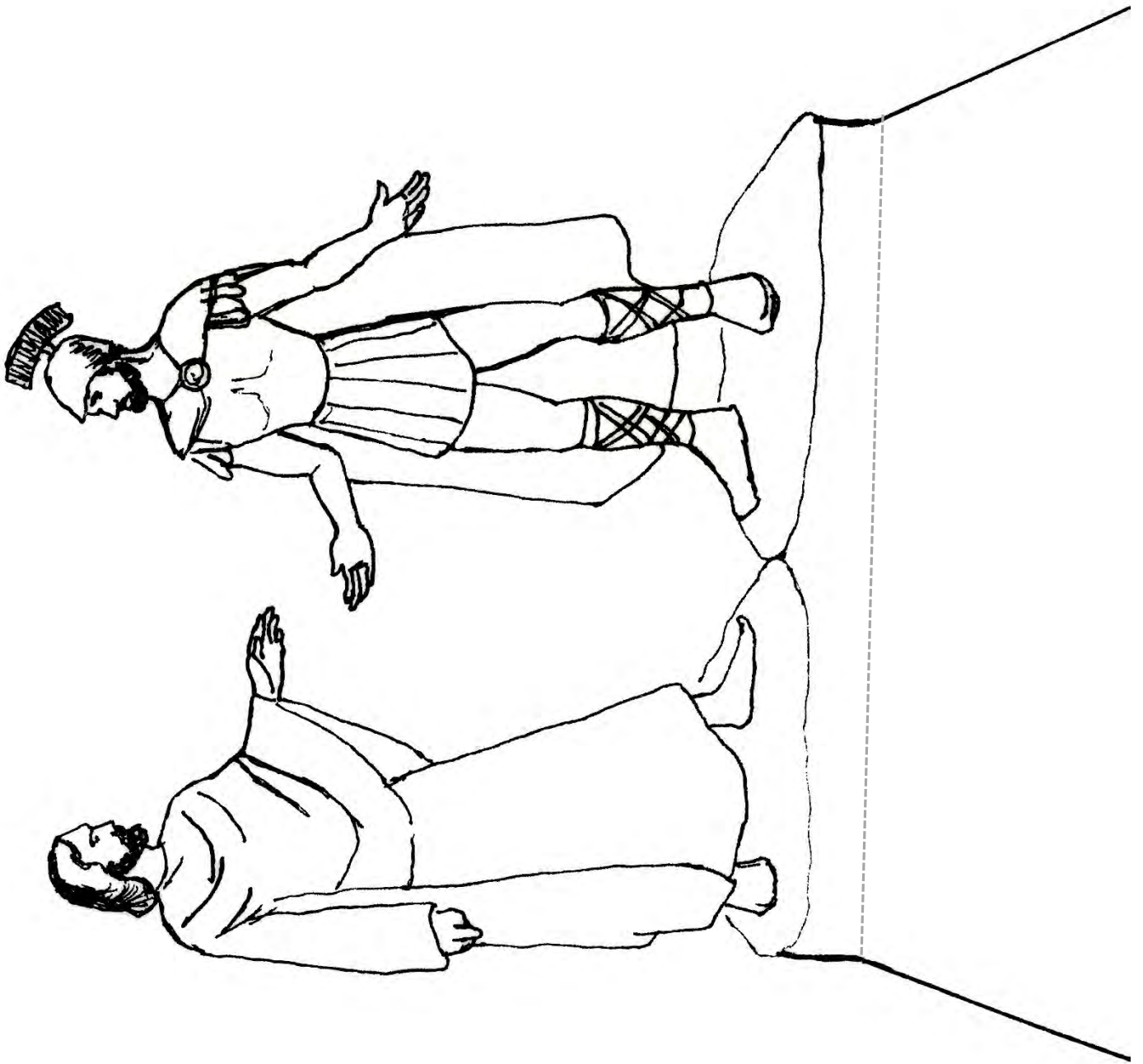
Supplies needed

- 1 piece stiff white paper approx. 8½" x 11" (21cm x 28cm)
- markers, crayons or colored pencils
- scissors
- *optional*: glitter or metallic markers to decorate the picture

Directions

1. Copy the picture on to stiff white paper.
2. Color and decorate the Lord and the centurion's servant.
3. Cut around the picture, including the attached stand.
4. Fold the stand back along the dashed line.
5. Stand your picture up and display it.







Recitation Award | Lessons 15, 16, 17

