

Jesus Heals the Soldier's Servant

Lesson 3

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

Bible Memory: Psalm 147:5

"Our Lord is great and very powerful." (ICB)

"Great is our Lord, and of great power." (KJV)

Focus: ♥ Jesus has power to heal people.











Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

The power Jesus demonstrates in today's story is the same power He still possesses. He healed the soldier's helper without being physically present. Jesus has that same power today. He heals spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Recall a time in your life when you have seen Jesus' power to heal. Take a minute to be thankful.

Bible Background for the Teacher

Centurions were military leaders over groups of 100 Roman soldiers each. The stories in Matthew and Luke differ as to whether the soldier went to Jesus himself or sent emissaries to plead his cause. Who actually asked for the favor does not change the fact that the soldier, a highly placed military man, understood giving orders enough to know that Jesus' physical presence was not needed. If Jesus ordered a job, it would be done. That is faith.

Lesson 3 at a Glance

1 GETTING STARTED Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore being a leader</i> .	 Quick Step Listen and Follow  Pretend Play  Obstacle Course	Immerse Materials	Other Materials • toys, 2 pairs of children's shoes, table and chairs, toy food items • classroom items, masking tape
2 BIBLE DISCOVERY Use all these activities to help children <i>tell what Jesus did for the soldier's helper</i> .	 Sing and Pray  Bible Time Jesus Heals the Soldier's Servant  Bible Review  Bible Memory	• <i>Resources</i> CD, <i>Resources</i> sheet 4 Jesus and soldier bottle puppet pieces 3a-3h	• CD player, Bible, two 2-liter soda bottles, tape, highlighter
3 GROW AND GO Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>thank Jesus for His power to heal people</i> .	 Quick Step Power Shields  Bible Memory Song  Paint and Pray Picture Closing the Hour	• <i>Make-n-Share</i> for lesson 3 • <i>Resources</i> CD and CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file • <i>Resources</i> CD lesson 3 coloring page printable file • <i>Heart Tugs</i> issue 3	• scissors, colored pencils, ½" ribbon, tape • CD player • watercolor paints, paint-brushes, paint shirts, small cups of water, paper towels

Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **explore** being a leader.

Focus

♥ Jesus has power to heal people.

Welcome

- Use a Scamper puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child, gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their contribution money.

Quick Step Listen and Follow

SAY: **Today's Bible story is about a soldier who believed that ♥ Jesus has power to heal people. This man was the leader of other soldiers. Let's listen and follow a leader's directions.**

Explain to the children that you are the leader and they are to follow your directions. Pause after each direction for them to respond. (Possible directions: Sit down. Turn around in a circle. Put your arms over your head. Jump up and down.) Give each child the opportunity to lead.

ASK: **What is hard about leading?**
What is hard about following?

Pretend Play

SAY: **Today we will learn about a leader who believed that ♥ Jesus has power to heal people. Our parents are leaders at home. Let's take turns pretending to be parents and children.**

Explain how children pretending to be parents can use the items to lead at home. Show how those playing the role of children can follow. (Example: Parents can give instructions to pick up toys and children can put away the toys.) Help children understand that listening and obeying is a way to follow a leader.

ASK: **When might it be hard to obey a parent's leading?**
Do you like to lead or follow?

Especially for 2s!

Pretend to be the parent and ask 2s to respond together. Then trade roles. Children will find it humorous when you pretend to be a child.

Obstacle Course

Before children arrive, set up an obstacle course, using classroom items. (Examples: Drape a table with a sheet for a tunnel. Arrange carpet squares in a curved walkway. Pile up pillows, cushions, or beanbags. Use hula hoops to jump through.) Use masking tape to make arrows for your course.

SAY: **Today's Bible story is about a leader who came to talk to Jesus. This leader knew that ♥ Jesus has the power to heal people. Let's follow a leader through an obstacle course game.** Have children take turns leading the other children through the course.

ASK: **Do you like to lead or follow? Why?**

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.



Some children may need hand-over-hand assistance to mirror movements.

Something More!

Use "March and Stomp" on the *Resources* CD track 12. Children can pretend to be soldiers and follow the directions given for the marching cadence.

Materials

miscellaneous toys,
2 pairs of children's shoes, table and chairs,
toy food items



Materials

classroom items,
masking tape



Cleanup

Pretend to be an army commander. Have children march around the room as you give orders about what needs to be cleaned. Remember, good commanders lead by example.



Focus

♥ Jesus has power to heal people.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2

Use all these activities to help children **tell what Jesus did for the soldier's helper.**

Materials

Resources CD tracks 2 and 5, CD player, Bible



Sing and Pray

Sing "Jesus Went Around Doing Good" and "Our Lord Is Great."

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Jesus' great power. We know that**

♥ **Jesus has power to heal people. In Jesus' name, amen.**

SAY: **We've talked about what it's like to be leaders and followers. Our story today is found in the book of Matthew in the Bible. Show Matthew. It's about a leader, an army soldier, who went to Jesus to ask for His help.**

Materials

Resources sheet 4
Jesus and soldier bottle
puppet pieces 3a–3h, two 2-liter
soda bottles, tape



Bible Time

Before class, prepare the bottle puppets, as illustrated on the *Resources* sheet. Move the puppets as you tell the story.

SAY: **Jesus was coming into the city of Capernaum when an army soldier found Him. This soldier was the leader over 100 other soldiers. The soldier said to Jesus, "A helper at my house is in pain. He cannot move. I think he may die."**

Jesus said, **"I will go to your house and make him well."**

"Oh no," said the soldier. "You don't have to come to my house. You can make my helper well from here. You just have to give the order. I give orders to my soldiers all the time. I tell them to go, and they go. I tell them to come, and they come. I tell a soldier to do something, and he does it. If I can get something done by giving an order, I'm sure You can too."

Jesus was surprised by the man's faith. The man believed that Jesus has great power.

Jesus said to the army soldier, "Go home. Your helper will be healed." Jesus is so powerful that He didn't need to go to the soldier's helper to heal him. Jesus could stay in the town and still heal the man far away.

At that very moment, the soldier's sick helper got well. ♥ Jesus has power to heal people.

Teaching Tip

Children will enjoy using the bottle puppets. Let them take turns holding and moving the puppets as though the puppets are talking to each other.



Materials

Jesus and soldier bottle
puppets from Bible
Time



Bible Review

Have the children point to the correct puppet as you ask questions.

ASK: **Who was coming into the city?** (Jesus)

Who came to talk to Jesus? (the soldier)

Who had a sick helper? (the soldier)

Who offered to go and make the helper well? (Jesus)

Who believed Jesus has great power? (the soldier)

Let children take turns using the puppets as they retell the story.

Materials

Bible, highlighter



Bible Memory Psalm 147:5

Before class, highlight the Bible Memory in your Bible.

SAY: **Today's Bible story shows us Jesus' power. Let's read our Bible Memory and say it together.** Show children Psalm 147:5. Have the children "read" the verse with you several times as you point to each word.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

3

Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **thank Jesus for His power to heal people.**

Focus

♥ Jesus has power to heal people.

Quick Step Power Shields

Before class, cut out the shields. Each child will also need a 5" and a 6" length of ribbon.

SAY: **Jesus healed a soldier's helper. ♥ Jesus has power to heal people. Let's make soldiers' power shields that will help us remember to thank Jesus for His power to heal.**

Give each child a shield. Children can trace and color the letters as desired. Help them use tape to attach the ribbons to their shields. When children have finished, lead in a simple prayer as children hold their shields.

PRAY: **Dear Jesus, our shields remind us of the soldier who came to You. Thank You, Jesus, for healing the soldier's helper. Thank You for Your power to heal people. We love You, Jesus. In Your name we pray, amen.**

ASK: **What great power did we learn that Jesus has?** (♥ Jesus has power to heal people.)

When can you thank Jesus for His power to heal?

Bible Memory Song

Before class, print the Bible Memory motions. Practice the motions so that you can demonstrate them to the children.

SAY: **♥ Jesus has power to heal people. Our Bible Memory reminds us that Jesus is great and powerful. Let's sing about Jesus' power and learn some motions to our Bible Memory.**

Teach the children the motions. Sing "Our Lord Is Great" several times, using the motions. Then pray, thanking Jesus for His great power.

ASK: **How did Jesus show His power in today's Bible story?**

What can you say to thank Jesus for His power?

Paint and Pray Picture

Before class, print the coloring page onto card stock.

SAY: **♥ Jesus has power to heal people. Let's paint a picture that will remind us of Jesus' great power.**

Give each child a picture and supplies for painting. Put a paper towel under each picture. When the children have finished painting, ask each child to show his picture. Pray a simple prayer, thanking Jesus for His power to heal the soldier's helper. Ask Him to help and heal people today.

ASK: **Who did Jesus heal?** (the soldier's helper)

What does Jesus have power to do? (♥ Jesus has power to heal people.)

Especially for 2s!

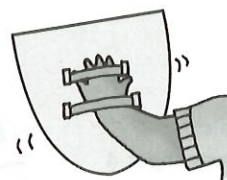
Provide crayons and stickers for 2s to decorate their pictures.

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving have their activity projects and this week's *Heart Tugs*. Remind parents to do the Following Directions activity with their children. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.21stcc.com.

Materials

Make-n-Share for lesson 3, scissors, colored pencils, ½" ribbon, tape



Materials

Resources CD track 5 and Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file, CD player



Materials

Resources CD lesson 3 coloring page printable file, card stock, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, paint shirts, small cups of water, paper towels (optional: crayons and stickers)



Let children who have trouble grasping small objects use bingo daubers or stampers to color their pages.