

The Gospel of Luke/ Lesson 12
The Healing of The Centurion's
Servant

Luke 7:1-10

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

MEMORY VERSE

JAMES 4:10

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A military style hat, jacket or sunglasses.

As many 8.5"x11" blank papers as the number of children in your class, pens, pencils and crayons.

Two pieces of butcher paper and a marker.

A cape or piece of fabric that can be used as a cape.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

"Sergeant Says"

This is a military form of "Simon Says." Explain to your class that you will give them commands beginning with the words "Sergeant Says." They must obey these commands to stay in the game. If you give a command without first saying "Sergeant Says," all students that follow the command need to sit down.

If you have one available to you, wear some kind of military style hat, jacket, or even sunglasses. Give your commands in military fashion, for example, "Attention! Salute! March in place! At ease!" etc. If time permits, give one or two other children a chance to be the "sergeant."

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal: learn to humble yourselves; Jesus has absolute authority

Have you ever met a soldier, perhaps someone in the army or navy? Maybe you have read about soldiers or seen them in a movie or parade. What does a soldier do?

Our scripture today is about a soldier. He was alive during the same time Jesus was on earth. This soldier was a **centurion**, meaning he was in charge of other soldiers, like a general. He was not a Jewish man; He was a **Gentile** (Gentiles are anyone who is not Jewish). He did not act like many of the people around him. Let's find out more about him.

Luke 7:1-5

7 Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. 3 So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, 5 "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue."

Jesus had been teaching the multitudes from Judea, Jerusalem, Tyre, and Sidon, and was now entering Capernaum. In that town lived a Roman Centurion. The word "centurion" is related to the word "century" which means 100. This man probably had at least 100 other soldiers under his command.

We learn about two people in verse two, the soldier [**centurion**] and his servant. The Bible says that the servant was "dear to him." That was not very common. In those days, a slave was considered a piece of property; but this soldier [**centurion**] considered his slave precious and dear to him.

The word used here for slave actually means, "slave child." The slave was probably very young. He had become very, very sick and was on the brink of death.

What was the centurion to do? His precious slave was dying, and even though he was a powerful soldier, he was powerless to help when it really counted. He could have fought all the wars of the world, marched in all the big parades, mastered all the weapons known to man, and ruled an entire kingdom, but he could not stop the death of his precious servant. Only **learn to humble yourselves; Jesus has absolute authority**

What had he **heard** about Jesus? What had he seen in Jesus' life that made him certain Jesus could make the difference? We will see in a few verses what it was in Jesus that gave this soldier complete confidence in Him.

First, the centurion sent some **Jewish leaders** to beg Jesus to come and heal his servant. Their message was like a prayer, simple, honest, and sent directly to Jesus. This soldier had a great need, and he saw in Jesus the answer. Even though he had never met Jesus, he still asked Him to come and heal. Just like the centurion did, anyone can bring their needs, their prayers, to Jesus. He is never too busy to listen.

Summary:

- The Centurion [leader of 100] trusted Jesus to heal his servants
- He had a good heart to love his servants and do whatever it takes to have him healed
- He humbly sent people [Jewish leaders] to ask Jesus for help [Similar to the intercession that we love in our Coptic church; he asked those leaders to intercede on his behalf to Jesus.
- Ask the kids to say the name of their beloved saint who is their intercessor?
Encourage them to keep doing that.

The Invitation [Craft]

Have the children make an invitation to Jesus to come and get involved with the circumstances of their lives. They can be made on an 8.5"x11" piece of paper folded twice. The invitation should read something like this: To: Jesus,

You are cordially invited to the life of your son/daughter [put your name here]

When: Immediately

Where: Throughout my life Please RSVP/

Allow the children to draw a picture or decorate their invitation with markers or crayons. Explain to the children that the Lord desires to take care of all the burdens in their lives. He is willing and able to handle any problem we have because He is our father and because **Jesus has absolute authority.**

The religious leaders had a high opinion of this centurion. They came and begged Jesus to help the soldier's servant because they thought the soldier was worthy of Jesus' help. They considered this soldier a worthy man because of his love for the Jews and his generosity. He had built a synagogue for these Jewish men. He respected the Jews, and they respected him in return. They went to Jesus on his behalf.

In our study today, we will look at three different opinions of the centurion. We have just seen the first one, the opinion of his friends, the Jewish leaders. They had a lot of respect for him. As we continue, we will see two other opinions. We will see his opinion of himself and Jesus' opinion. Let's continue...

Luke 7:6-7

6 Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. 7 Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.

Jesus went with the Jewish elders who had come on behalf of the soldier. Before Jesus reached the house, the centurion's friends came with a message from him. Here **we have another opinion of the soldier [centurion], what he thought of himself.** He said, "I am not worthy." The Jews said he was worthy, but he himself said that he was not. He realized that he was not even worthy to have Jesus come into his house or to ask help from him. He was a humble man with a humble heart.

There was something different and very important about this man. Even though the world thought highly of him, he knew that Jesus was different from the world. He saw something in Jesus that set Him apart. The centurion was humbled by who Jesus was and did not even think he was worthy of Jesus' time. What was it he saw in Jesus?

We catch a glimpse of it when the centurion said, "But say the word, and my servant will be healed." Something he saw in Jesus made him trust completely in the power of Jesus to heal. He understood something very important about Jesus. It was something that he understood because he was a soldier. What was it? Let's find it in verse 8.

Luke 7:8

8 For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

He understood authority. What is authority? Authority is having not only the power but the right to rule and make decisions, to have control over how things are done.

When we submit to authority, we give up our own way, our opinions, letting that person in authority direct us. They become our superiors, someone higher than we are. We recognize them as having the right to lead us. This centurion recognized that **Jesus has absolute authority**.

Application:

We also are under authority. Of course, the greatest authority in our lives is Jesus. We should do whatever He asks us to. **How do we know what He wants us to do?** We read His Word, the Bible. He has given us the Bible so we can learn how He wants us to live.

We are also under the authority of our Church, parents, grandparents, and teachers. We need to respect and obey them because this is right in the sight of the Lord (Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right Eph. 6:1).

The centurion saw the authority that Jesus possessed and knew that he was unworthy of entertaining Him no matter what his friends thought. He did not come to Jesus because he thought he had earned a miracle. Rather, this centurion believed that Jesus had the power to command things to change. He had great faith in Jesus because he knew that **Jesus has absolute authority**.

He trusted Jesus completely because he knew that only someone with absolute authority could do what Jesus did. All power and majesty belong to Jesus. He is the King of all kings. No one is higher than Jesus. The centurion relied on Jesus to help him in a hopeless situation. **Jesus has absolute authority**.

The centurion knew that Jesus would not even have to come; He just had to say the word and His authority would be obeyed. This wise soldier did a simple thing; he asked Jesus to come and be involved in his situation.

Jesus wants all of us to do just that; He wants us to invite Him into the situations of our lives, to perform His perfect will in our lives, because He knows what is best for us. We simply ask Him to be the absolute authority in our lives. There is no one we can trust like Jesus; no one we can rely upon like Him. When we give up our own way, give Him our obedience, and invite Him into all the circumstances of our lives, He makes all the difference because **Jesus has absolute authority**. That kind of simple faith pleases Him because it recognizes Him for who He is.

Luke 7:9-10

9 When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"
10 And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.

In this verse we see the third opinion, what Jesus thought of the centurion. He was pleased by the centurion's simple faith. Many people around Jesus did not believe in Him; Jesus marveled at this man's faith. And when they returned to the house they found out that the servant got well and was healed.

Why does faith like that make Jesus marvel? Because it shows how we trust God and how we humble ourselves to Him as the highest authority. It admits that we need Him. It recognizes that **Jesus has absolute authority**. It trusts Him to make a difference in our lives and our situations.

Can you imagine how wonderful it would be to make Jesus marvel? Complete faith in Him and His absolute authority makes Him marvel. It pleases Him because it is the only right attitude to have in life.

Captain Marvel [Activity]

Bring a cape, or piece of fabric that can be used as a cape, and explain to the children that you are going to be "Captain Marvel."

Ask the children to tell you some things they have done in the last week to please Jesus. As they describe their accomplishments, marvel at what they have done.

Explain to the class that any good thing coming out of our lives is a miracle of God. He is the author and finisher of every good thing, even the good that comes from us.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of submission to the authority of the Lord. Ask Jesus to teach us all to be humble and to humble our hearts and to ask him also to teach us all to obey him, trust him and know that He has all the authority; Glory be to Him Amen.

Email to Parents:

Dear Parents:

In the lesson this week, we learned about the time that Jesus healed the Centurion's servant (Luke 7:1-10). We encourage you to review these scriptures with your child. What an exciting story! The centurion had such faith in Jesus that he knew that Jesus need only give the command and his son would be made well. Jesus was amazed at his great faith. We learned that Jesus has absolute authority over everything. If Jesus commands something to be, then it will happen.

We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.