

Bible Story 32: JESUS HEALS AND TEACHES

SCRIPTURE:	Heals Centurion's Servant:	Luke 7:1-10
	Raises Widow's Son:	Luke 7:11-17
	John the Baptist's Question:	Matthew 11:2-11
	Washes Jesus' Feet:	Luke 7:36-50

MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 1:9

BIBLE STORY:

In Capernaum along the northern part of the Sea of Galilee lived a centurion. He was an officer in the Roman army who commanded 100 soldiers.

This centurion valued a servant who was paralyzed and in terrible suffering; he was about to die. The centurion sent some Jewish leaders to Jesus to ask Him to come and heal his servant. When they found Jesus, they insisted that He should go, saying that the official deserved His help. In fact, the Roman official had constructed a house of prayer for the Jews.

So Jesus went with them. When He was close to the house, the centurion sent some friends to speak to Jesus with this message, ***"It is not necessary to come to my house for I am not worthy to even come to you. I, myself, tell my soldiers to come and they come; I tell them to go and they go. So, therefore, Jesus, just say the word and my servant will be healed."***

Jesus was amazed at this man's faith and said to the crowd, ***"In Israel, I have not seen such a great faith as this man's faith."*** At that very moment, Jesus healed the servant.

In a short time, the disciples and the crowd followed Jesus to Nain, a hillside town five miles southeast of Nazareth. As Jesus approached the town gate, a funeral procession was coming out. A widow's only child, a young man, had died and he was being taken to be buried. His mother and people from town were following the coffin.

Jesus saw the son's mother crying and said, ***"Don't cry."*** Then Jesus touched the coffin and said, ***"Get up, young man."*** The young man got up and Jesus took him to his mother. Everyone was amazed and praised God.

During this time, John the Baptist was in prison. He sent two of his disciples to speak with Jesus, asking, ***"Jesus, are you the promised Messiah or should we wait for someone else?"*** So John's disciples left, seeking to find Jesus.

When John the Baptist's disciples arrived, Jesus was healing many sick people. They asked Jesus John's question. Jesus responded and said, ***"Tell John the Baptist about all the miracles that you see that are being done, such as sight is being given to the blind, those that are crippled can walk, those with leprosy are being healed. Also, I am sharing the gospel to the poor. Tell John the Baptist that truly I am the promised Messiah that he was expecting from God."*** After these words, the two disciples left and returned to John the Baptist, telling all these things to him.

As they left, Jesus told everyone, ***"John the Baptist is a great messenger of God, that prepared the way. In fact, John the Baptist is the greatest man that ever lived. Yet in the Kingdom of God, the least shall be the greatest."***

On a certain occasion, Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to his house for dinner. During the dinner, a woman with a bad reputation heard that Jesus was at Simon's house. She left and went to his house, taking a very valuable alabaster jar full of expensive perfume. When she arrived, she went and washed Jesus' feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Then she poured the expensive perfume on His feet. Jesus turned to the woman and said, ***"Because of your faith, your sins are forgiven. Leave now in peace."***

Jesus taught the people and healed their sicknesses. In this way, Jesus continued His second year of ministry.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. The centurion, the Roman official, sought Jesus to help his sick servant. Through prayer, take your concerns to Jesus. God will listen and help. Also, seek medical help, such as a doctor.
2. The woman had faith in Jesus as she wiped His feet with her tears. What is faith? It is believing in Jesus. Have faith in Jesus; believe in Him.
3. Jesus forgave her from her sins. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who was a centurion? What happened to the centurion’s servant? Why did the centurion send his servant to talk with Jesus? What happened?
2. Jesus said the centurion had faith. What is faith? What does it mean to have faith in Jesus?
3. Who are some people who help the sick today? Who can we go to for help when we are sick or face other problems?
4. What are some ways that Jesus can help us when we are sick or face problems?
5. At the town gate in Nain, what happened at the funeral procession?
6. How do we feel when we lose a loved one or a friend? How can Jesus help us in our sorrow?
7. John the Baptist was in prison and sent his disciples to talk with Jesus. What question did they ask Jesus? What did Jesus answer? How did Jesus describe John the Baptist?
8. Can we ask Jesus questions? Will Jesus answer our questions? How does Jesus answer our questions?
9. What did the woman do to Jesus at Simon’s house during the dinner? What kind of woman was she? What did Jesus say to her?
10. What is sin? What must we do to have Jesus forgive us of our sins?

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- Show and discuss some newspaper clippings or articles from a magazine of problems that people face. Ask: **“What are some problems that we face?”** (Examples: illness, death of a loved one, questions we need answering, getting forgiveness for something we did wrong...)
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

MISSION ACTIVITY:

- Do a mission activity. Examples:
 - **Activity 1:** Make and send a get well card or a card of encouragement for someone who is going through a difficult time.
 - **Activity 2:** Make cookies or a meal or send fruit to someone who is sick, elderly or bedridden.
 - **Activity 3:** Sit with a person who is elderly, sick or bedridden so their spouse or family member can go out to do errands or have some free time for relaxation.
 - **Activity 4:** Write letters, do errands, clean up the house or cut grass for someone bedridden, elderly, or sick.
 - **Activity 5:** Do something special with the children of someone sick.
 - **Activity 6:** Give encouraging music CDs or a DVD with an encouraging or funny film for them to enjoy.

NURSE OR DOCTOR VISITS GROUP:

- Invite a nurse or a doctor to talk with the group:
 - (1) Talk about being a nurse or doctor.
 - (2) Talk about ways to take care of yourself to help prevent getting sick.
 - (3) Talk about how to take care of yourself when you are sick.
 - (4) Talk about ways to help others who are sick and not catch their illnesses.

ROTATION DINNER:

- Plan a progressive dinner. If possible, the leader only knows where they are going to eat. Some suggestions:
 - STOP 1: Eat a meal, pizza, hamburger...*
 - STOP 2: Eat dessert: ice cream, cake, popcorn...*
 - STOP 3: Play miniature golf, watch a movie, play games...*
 - **Option 1:** Do each activity at a different restaurant/home.
 - **Option 2:** Do the above activities in your own home.
 - **Option 3:** If you have members from different nationalities, one evening rotate and eat at different homes their national food (such as: fruit salad from South America; Mexican food main meal; fortune cookie from China as dessert. Game at end: pinhata.

MUSICAL CHAIRS:

- Play musical chairs. Place Bible verses in a container. Place enough chairs in a circle for each person in the group, minus one. Play a song. Whenever the leader stops the song, each one must find a chair. The person left standing, takes out a Bible verse and reads it. He removes a chair. The game continues.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Matthew 11:2-11; Luke 7:1-17, 36-50

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Luke 7:1-10	Luke 7:11-17	Matthew 11:2-3	Matthew 11:4-6	Matthew 11:7-11	Luke 7:36-39	Luke 7:40-50