The Centurion's Servant
Matthew 8:5-15; Luke 7:1-10

The Story

Did you know that there were armies in Jesus' day, just like there are armies today? One day in a city called Capernaum a leader from the Roman army came to Jesus for help. Do you know why he came to Jesus? He believed that Jesus could help him with a problem. His problem had to do with his servant. His servant had become very sick. He could not walk because he was paralyzed, and he was in a lot of pain.

It was good that this army commander called a centurion had come to Jesus for help. This centurion was the leader of one hundred men. While a centurion is an important man and gives orders to other people, he is not as important and powerful as Jesus. No man is as important and powerful as Jesus. This is true because Jesus is the very Son of God.

The people of the city liked this Roman centurion because he cared about the people. He even built a church or synagogue for them in which to worship.

This centurion came to Jesus and said, "Lord, my servant is very sick. He is paralyzed, and he is in a lot of pain." Jesus told the army leader, "I will come and heal him."

Now we see how much the centurion believed in Jesus, and how humble he was in the presence of Jesus. He said, "Lord, I am not worthy enough to have you come to my house. I am under the authority of those above me in the army, and I am the leader of some who follow my orders. But I know you only have to speak a word, and my servant will be healed."

Jesus was surprised by how strongly this man believed in Him. This Roman centurion had a very strong faith in Jesus the Savior, while many people from Israel, Jesus' own country, did not believe in Jesus at all.

It is a good thing the Roman army leader believed in Jesus and came to Him for help. Did Jesus help him? Yes, He did! Jesus said to the man, "Go on your way; and just as you have believed it would happen, your servant shall be healed." The servant did recover from his sickness, right at that very time.

Jesus heals a Centurion's servant.

Activity - Word Search - Find the words from the Word Box in the puzzle below.

| SYNAGOGUE | HEALED | SERVANT | CENTURION |
| CAPERNAUM | HUMBLE | FAITH | PARALYZED |

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C  A  P  E  R  N  A  U  M  H
E  D  A  K  S  W  G  H  Y  U
N  V  R  H  E  A  L  E  D  M
T  Y  A  P  R  V  O  Y  L  B
U  P  L  E  V  X  P  P  K  L
R  S  Y  N  A  G  O  G  U  E
I  Q  Z  O  N  E  B  L  S  W
O  W  E  P  T  N  F  M  E  O
N  E  D  R  X  T  E  E  C  R
P  I  P  F  A  I  T  H  G  T
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Review - Now use the words in the Word Box to answer these questions.

1. Jesus came to the city of _____.

2. A _____ was a soldier in charge of 100 men.

3. His _____ was sick and _____.

4. This soldier built the people a church or _____.

5. The soldier was _____ before Jesus.

6. Jesus said he had great _____.

7. The servant was _____ at that very hour.

Passage

Psalm 50:15   "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."

Circle the words that tell what God promises to do for us when we need help. Underline the words that tell how will we show our thanks.

God gives faith to trust in Him.

Hymn - TLH#428 v. 1, 2, 6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,
    We thank You for teaching us in Your Word about how much Jesus loves us, how powerful He is, and how willing He is to help us. It is comforting to know that He will help us and be with us when we are sick, and in all our times of need. We ask that Your Holy Spirit will ever make our faith stronger so that we will always strongly believe in Jesus like the Roman army leader did. Thank You especially for sending Your Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior from sin, so that we know that we will be in heaven forever because He has gained eternal salvation for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen!