



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Takes Care of Me
Winter Year 2, Lesson 38

The Faith of the Captain

Bible Event: Luke 7:1-10

Take Home Point: *WHEN I AM WORRIED – *I trust Jesus.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: I place my trust in Jesus because he sees all things.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn worry means that we are unsure of the future and are afraid something bad might happen. We all worry sometimes. The best thing to do when you are worried is to give your worries to Jesus. Jesus has the power to take our worries away and to help us work through whatever happens. Kids will take home the point: ***WHEN I AM WORRIED – *I trust Jesus.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Your choice, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event by telling it from a first person point of view. Explain to the children that they will meet an actor, someone pretending to be a person in today's Bible event. Ask the children to put on their imagination hats so they can imagine that this really is the person in the Bible event.

Today the "Captain" from the Bible Event will visit. Have the Captain dressed in any available Roman soldier garb, possibly with a fake sword.

The Captain speaks:

I am a powerful captain in the Roman army. I have soldiers to whom I can give orders and they will do whatever I say. I say, "Go" and they go. I say, "Come" and they come. When I tell my servant "Do this," he does it! I have lots of power. But I'm not a mean person, either. I try to be friends with others – even people who are different than me. I built a synagogue for people to worship in and I care about my friends and servants very much.

One day I came home and found that one of my servants was very sick. I wanted to order him to get up and feel better, but I couldn't. I didn't have the power to heal someone who was sick. But I had heard of someone named Jesus who could heal sick people! I had heard how special Jesus was and wanted to ask him for help.

So, I decided to send some of my friends, Jewish teachers who believed in Jesus, to ask him to come help my sick servant. They went and found him! They told Jesus how much I loved my servant and he decided to come help!

But I started to get worried. I knew how special and powerful Jesus was and I wasn't sure that I deserved to have him come help me. I didn't think I was worthy enough to have Jesus come to my house. So I sent another group of friends to tell Jesus not to come to my house. I had them say to Jesus, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed."

Then Jesus did the most amazing thing. He knew I was a powerful captain in the army and he knew how much I loved my servant. Even though I was worried and afraid that Jesus wouldn't want to help me, he did anyway. He sent my friends back to my house and by the time they got back, my beloved servant was healed! Jesus healed him! It was amazing!

You see, when we get worried, we need to ask Jesus to help. Worry is when we're not sure what's going to happen. I was worried my servant was going to die. I was also worried that I didn't deserve to ask Jesus for help and that Jesus wouldn't help me. But when we are worried and give those worries to Jesus, he always listens and helps us deal with whatever worries us. That is amazing! Always remember: **WHEN I AM WORRIED – I trust Jesus.**

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide a small cup of any flavor pudding to each child. Have them draw a cross with their finger in the top of the pudding. Then give each child a cookie of some kind that they can crumble into their *pudding* (a *Vanilla Wafer*, *graham cracker*, etc.). As they crumble their cookie, have them think of something they have been worried about. Have them “give that worry to Jesus” by stirring the crumbs into the pudding marked with the cross.

Drama Zone: Have children reenact the scene. Provide Roman soldier costumes, fake swords, a white robe and other miscellaneous robes, a blanket and a pillow.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to practice praying to Jesus and giving their worries to him.

Felt Zone: Use felt board and materials to show the story of the Faith of the Captain from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #117, “Jesus Heals a Soldier's Servant” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide a pre-cut cardstock cross with the message “Don't Worry, Trust Jesus” (see template). Have children decorate the cross with markers, crayons, glue, glitter, stickers, etc. Attach a magnet to the back. Encourage them to keep this at home as a reminder to give Jesus their worries.

Play Zone: Play “Captain, May I?” (a version of “Mother, May I?”) Use masking tape to mark a start and finish line and let children take turns being “Captain.”

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the Captain.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “The Faith of the Captain” coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes onto stage acting distracted. She's fidgety and keeps looking from side to side and out into the crowd as if she's trying to find something. The large group presenter asks her if anything is wrong. She tells him that her mom was supposed to be here to pick her up, but she hasn't seen her yet. Judy wonders where she could be?

The presenter asks Judy if she is worried. She is. She just doesn't know where her mom is. The presenter first tells Judy that he is sure her mom is fine and that she is just running late. But he understands what it's like to worry. He explains worry is when we are not sure what will happen – like Judy not knowing where her mom is and wondering what will happen. We all have times when we are worried. When we worry, we sometimes get scared and feel sick inside. The best thing we can do when we are worried is to tell someone about it. When we tell our parents or our friends about it, they can help us feel better and not be so worried.

The presenter asks the kids if they know who the best person is to tell about their worries. It is Jesus! When we pray and tell Jesus what our worries are, he can help us let go of our worries and feel better. Jesus may not fix things exactly how we want all the time, but he can be in our hearts and help us to deal with our worries. Jesus will always help! Remember: ***WHEN I AM WORRIED – I trust Jesus.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with hands. Finish with bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross your hands over the heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- Roman soldier costume
- fake sword

Action Zones:

Snack:

- pudding, any flavor
- cookies (vanilla wafers, graham crackers, etc.)

Drama:

- Roman soldier costumes
- white and other miscellaneous robes
- blanket
- pillow

Craft:

- pre-cut card stock cross (see template)
- self-adhesive magnet strips
- stickers, glitter, glue, etc.
- markers and crayons

Play:

- masking tape

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #117, “Jesus Heals a Soldier’s Servant” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Coloring page:

- “The Faith of the Captain”

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

