

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 4
Lesson Plans for Younger Children

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

We remain Easter people, now with the wind of the Holy Spirit in our sails. Our task for the months ahead in this season of Ordinary Time, which extends to the end of November, is to look at what Jesus so tenaciously taught his disciples and see what is in these teachings for us as we carry out the work we have been given to do. Jesus promised his disciples a helper, an Advocate, who would stand with them making the work possible. This same helper, the Holy Spirit, hovers over us still eager to quench the fire of fear and replace it with the powerful energy of love.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus goes from calling the disciples to immediately healing people and teaching through his actions. In today's lesson, we hear a story about a servant being healed because the centurion (a Roman army officer) had enough belief, enough faith to ask Jesus to heal his servant who he valued highly. The centurion knew that he did not deserve Jesus granting his request and he asked anyway hoping that he would bring healing. This is a story that is more about the centurion's faith in Jesus' ability to heal than it is about the man who was healed.

Theme: Unexpected healing

Before: You will need paper, crayons, and markers. If you have time, you might want to find some pictures online or in magazines of people helping one another.

Beginning: As the children gather, ask them if they helped anyone this week, or if anyone helped them this week. If you have pictures from online or magazines to share with them, you can ask them to share what kind of helping they see in the pictures when you hold them up.

Praying: Thank you God for being there to listen and to help us when we need you. Amen.

The Story: Jesus had just entered into a town named Capernaum. A Roman captain there had a servant who he cherished who was dying. When the Roman captain heard that Jesus was there, he sent leaders from his community to ask Jesus if he would come and heal his servant. So the community leaders went to Jesus and asked him to come and heal the servant. They plead with him saying, "He deserves this, he loves our people, and he built our meeting place."

So Jesus went with them and as they were on their way, the captain sent friends to Jesus saying, "Master, you don't have to do all of this for me. Just give the order and my servant will get well." Jesus was surprised and said, "I haven't met anyone with this kind of trust anywhere in Israel!" When the captain's friends went back home, they found the servant was well and healthy.

Activity: Wondering

I wonder if the Roman captain was afraid to ask for Jesus' help?

I wonder why the captain was nervous when he heard that Jesus was coming to his house?

I wonder why Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith and trust?

I wonder if there has been a time when you have been afraid to ask for help?

Did you ask for help anyways?

I wonder how you feel when you ask for help and help comes?

Activity: Asking for Help

Invite the children to talk about ways in which they might need help.

Invite them to talk about the ways in which others might need help.

Wonder with them:

I wonder what it would be like if Jesus came to help you?

I wonder what you would ask him to help you with if he came to your house?

After they have wondered about these for a bit, invite them to draw their responses.

Getting Closure: When it seems like they are close to being done, invite them to gather together and share with one another what they asked Jesus to help them with when he came to their house.

Closing Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for listening when we ask for your help. Remind us to ask for your help and the help of others when we need it because we are stronger when we do things together. Amen.

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