

*Sunday School Lesson, April 14, 2024*  
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**Lesson—Healed From a Distance<sup>1</sup>**

**Text—Luke 7:1-10**

**I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives**

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Discover the factors that influenced the centurion's faith in Christ to heal the servant.
2. Confess a personal need for God in the face of feeling helpless or hopeless.
3. Engage in a pattern of fervent prayer amid helpless and hopeless circumstances.

**Why This Lesson Matters:** There are times when the enormity of our problems diminishes our capacity to move forward. When a centurion whose servant was close to death responded in great faith, Jesus was amazed and miraculously restored the servant to full health.

**Key Verse—(Luke 7:7)** Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed. (KJV)

**Song of Praise and Worship:** “I Am Healed,” by Donald Lawrence and the Tri-City Singers

**II. *Points to be Emphasized***

- a. *Books mention of Capernaum is a reminder that the centurion may have already known of Jesus, the centurion's faith was grounded in the history of seeing Jesus in action and knowing his reputation.*
- b. *The centurion's approach demonstrates humility and the sincerity of his respect for God's people: he honored Jesus by not demanding that he cross the Jew-Gentile boundaries when he was a social superior of a conquering people and had the right to make that demand.*
- c. *The story depicts the essential link between action and faith: it is clear that the centurion's faith drove his actions.*

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<sup>1</sup> Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at [www.sspbnb.com](http://www.sspbnb.com)

d. *While Jesus certainly encountered faith within Israel, the centurion's faith was quite unique in its humility and recognition that Jesus' authority comes directly from God and thus is absolute.*

### III. ***Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context***

In their respective accounts of Jesus' life and ministry, the four gospel writers addressed their work to different audiences. Matthew wrote to the Jews to prove that Jesus was their king and promised Messiah. Mark's audience was Christians in Rome, presenting snapshots of Christ the person, work, and teachings. John, the beloved disciple, aimed to show new Christians and unbelievers that Jesus is God's son and that all who believe in him will have eternal life. Luke's primary audience was Greek Christians to whom he presented an accurate account of Christ's life as the perfect human and savior.

Luke 7 presents an example of an "outsider," a Roman centurion, who demonstrated faith in Jesus for the healing of an honored servant. In chapters 4 through 9, Luke provides examples of Jesus' public ministry of his interactions and engagement with those considered outsiders by the Jews. Luke's account included his encounter with a Roman centurion, a gentile, who expressed unprecedented faith in Jesus' power to heal his servant from a far distance (*Luke 7:1-10*).

### IV. ***Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson***

**Centurion (v.6)**—*the centurion was a man with enormous power. As a representative of Rome and in charge of Roman soldiers, he had power and authority.*

**Jesus:** *also referred to as Jesus of Nazareth or Jesus Christ, he was a 1st century Jewish preacher and religious leader he is the central figure of Christianity, the world's largest religion. The savior in whom all Christians believe. Hello*

### V. ***Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)***

**Centurion (v.6)**—*Greek: hekatontarches: a captain of one hundred men*

**Was Amazed (v.9)**—*Greek: thaumazo; wondered at; admired; "marvelled" (KJV)*

### VI. ***Topical Outline of the Lesson***

1. Introduction
2. Faith's Request (7:1-5)
3. Faith's Reward (vv. 6-10)

**Food for thought and question for consideration:** **(What have we learned Charlie Brown?)** Do you have the type of faith that says, even if He doesn't do it for me, I still believe?