

**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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**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 4**  
**Lesson Plans for Older 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.

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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 Class:** You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for the children. You will need a whiteboard or paper to write up the brainstorming as well as paper, pens, pencils, and markers.

**Beginning:** As the children gather, invite them to share times when they have asked for help and how it felt to ask for help from others.

**Opening Prayer:** Loving God, who listens to all our prayers, thank you for being with us today as we discover more about you and your healing love for us. Amen.

**The Story: Luke 7:1-10** Invite one child to read the whole story, or follow the script below and invite children to read the different voices.

**Questions:**

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

I wonder how the centurion felt when he heard that Jesus was coming?

I wonder why the centurion did not feel worthy for Jesus to come to his house?

Do you think Jesus understood those feelings?

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

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 work together to think of all the **ways** they can ask for help from each other, from adults, and from God. (in writing, in words, in letters, in prayer, etc.) Write these up on the board/paper so they can refer back to them.

Once you have brainstormed all the ways to ask for help, invite them to think of **why** they might ask for help. Do they ask for things for themselves? For others? For both? Write their responses up on the board/paper so they can refer back to them.

Invite them (either individually or in pairs) to come up with something for which they want help and how they might ask for it. Invite them to write it down, draw about it, create a card, write a song, etc.

**Getting Closure:** Once they have had an opportunity to work on this, invite them to come back together as a group and share if they feel comfortable doing so. You may want to keep track of those things they ask for help with so you can include them in the prayer at the end.

Invite them to work on asking for help this week, either in following through with what they thought of today, or something else they may need help with at home or school.

Reflect with them: I wonder why it is important for us to ask for help? I wonder if we do things better alone or with the help of others? I wonder who might need your help? I wonder how you can respond?

**Closing Prayer:** Gracious God, who is always there to listen when we have something to ask, be with us as we go forth from here so we can be more aware of when we need to ask for your help and when others may need our help. [We pray especially for those things we name before you now (include the work they did today) \_\_\_\_\_.] In your name we pray. Amen.

## **Luke 7:1-10**

**Narrator:** After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>A centurion (a Roman Soldier) there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. <sup>3</sup>When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying,

**Jewish Elders:** “He is worthy of having you do this for him, <sup>5</sup>for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.”

**Narrator:** <sup>6</sup>And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him,

**Friends:** “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; <sup>7</sup>therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. <sup>8</sup>For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.”

**Narrator:** <sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said,

**Jesus:** “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”

**Narrator:** <sup>10</sup>When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

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**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 4**  
**Gospel Lesson for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 7:1-10**

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**Theme: Unexpected healing**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the Bible or copies of the scripture passage. If you would like to have the group read from more than one translation, make sure and have either Bibles or copies of different translations on hand.

**Beginning:** Invite the group to think about a time when they asked for something even though they did not necessarily deserve it. What was it like to ask? What was it like to receive? Do not have them respond at this time, but invite their responses during the Questions portion.

**Opening Prayer:** Gracious God, be with us as we meditate on your word. Help us to understand the centurion's faith so that our own faith may grow. Hear our prayers as we come to you, asking for your healing and love. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 7: 1-10** Invite a volunteer to read. If you choose, you could have a few different translations and have different volunteers each read from a different translation.

**Questions:**

I wonder how the centurion had heard of Jesus?

I wonder why the servant was so important to the centurion?

I wonder what Jesus thought of this request?

What made the centurion believe so much, that Jesus' mere words healed the servant?

I wonder if we have the faith of the centurion?

Do we ask Jesus for healing or favors, even though we feel like we may not deserve them?

As we began our time together, I invited you to think about a time when you asked for something even though you did not necessarily deserve it. What was it like to ask? What was it like to receive?

**Getting Closure:** In this story, the centurion asked for healing on behalf of his servant. I wonder if there has been a time when we have asked for something on behalf of someone else. How can we serve as a voice to those who are not heard in our society? Where are the places we can speak up and ask, even if we do not know that answer to the questions? Where is our faith leading us to speak up?

**Closing Prayer:** Loving God, we thank you for your healing words. Remind us, as we go forth from this place, that we, too, are called to ask for what we see is needed. Help us to speak for those who have no voice, help us to be brave and stand up for others that we all may be healed and know your love. Amen.

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### Luke 7:1-10

7After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup>A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. <sup>3</sup>When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy of having you do this for him, <sup>5</sup>for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.” <sup>6</sup>And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; <sup>7</sup>therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. <sup>8</sup>For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” <sup>9</sup>When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” <sup>10</sup>When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

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