

Lesson #3-21

Healing the Sick, Raising the Dead

Luke 7:1-17



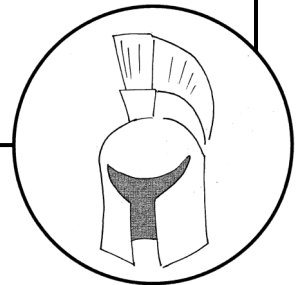
Key Verse:

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."

Luke 7:9

The Point:

Jesus brings life to outsiders, just as he brings life to us all.



Introduction

Jesus began traveling around Galilee providing healing and welcome. A centurion, a Roman military commander, sent his friends to request that Jesus heal his slave. Before Jesus arrived, the centurion had faith that Jesus could heal his slave with just a word. Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith, and he healed the slave. Later, Jesus found a widow whose son had just died. She would have no one to take care of her. He said to her son, "Rise!" and he rose from the dead. Jesus provided healing to those who needed it most, and including the Roman commander's slave and a widow in need.

The Point

Jesus brings life to outsiders, just as he brings life to us all. Jesus heals a centurion's slave and raises to life the only son of a widow. The centurion was not Jewish, and many were surprised that Jesus' ministry would include him. Yet, the centurion is praised for his faith. Jesus takes time to help the widow, who is in great need, having lost her husband and her son. Jesus takes time to be with those that others ignore or exclude. Jesus' ministry is for everyone; for those who were on the edges of society, and for each of us as well.

Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Introduction

Comparing Characteristics

Add your name to lists that describe you.

10 min.

- † Paper
- † Markers
- † Tape

Learning the Story

Two Stories of Healing

Look at two stories in Luke.

10 min.

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-21.A
- † Poster paper
- † Marker

Activities

Prayer Jar

Pray for the healing of others.

15 min.

- † Clean jars
- † Craft sticks
- † Glue
- † Markers
- † Variety of decorations:
paper, ribbon, sequins, etc.

Word Spread

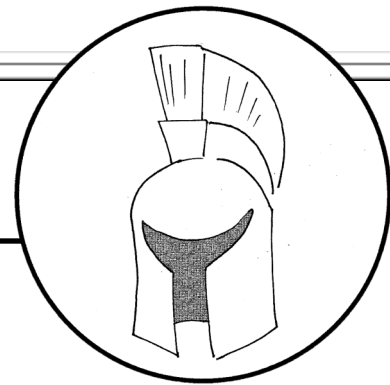
Discover how the word about healings spread.

10 min.

- † Clear drinking glass
- † Coffee filters
- † Water
- † Markers
- † Newspaper or plastic table covering

Prayer

God's Story @ Home



Introduction (10 minutes)

Comparing Characteristics

Add your name to lists that describe you.

Supplies:

- † Paper
- † Markers
- † Tape

Preparation:

1. Choose several categories that describe members of your family, and write each category on a piece of paper, leaving room for family members to write their names underneath. For example, you might choose artist, musician, daughter, father, disciple, sports fan, etc. Everyone should be able to be considered part of at least one category. Use multiple pages as necessary.

Instructions:

1. Invite each person to take a marker and add their name under any category that describes them. They may add their name to multiple categories.
2. **There are lots of categories that you can use to describe yourself. Some of you are...** (list a few of your chosen categories). **However, just because you are part of one of these categories, does not mean that is all you are. You are more than just a dancer or a football fan.**
3. **In Jesus' time, there were lots of categories, too. Sometimes people decided if they should talk to someone, or care about someone, based on what kind of category they were in. In today's story, we will hear about a Roman soldier. Roman soldiers were not very well liked in Israel, but Jesus still took the time to care about him.**

4. We will also hear about a widow. That means her husband had died. That was very difficult in those times because women did not have much power. Often women who did not have husbands were in great need, but many times they were not cared for. Then, we learn that her only son died as well. Jesus saw that this woman was more than just a widow, and he took time to help her.
5. Jesus helps us see past some of the categories that we use to describe people and sees everyone as a child of God.

Learning the Story (15 minutes)

Two Stories of Healing

Look at two stories in Luke.

Supplies:

- † Bibles
- † Activity Sheet #3-21.A
- † Poster paper
- † Marker

Preparation:

1. Draw a Venn diagram on the poster paper using the example on Activity Sheet #3-21.A.
2. A Venn diagram is a way to compare and contrast two different things. Characteristics that apply only to the centurion will be listed in the left circle, and those that apply only to the widow will be listed in the right circle. Characteristics that apply to both will be listed in the center where the circles overlap.

Instructions:

1. Read the story from Luke 7:1-17.
2. **In this story, Jesus healed two people. He healed the slave of the centurion and the son of the widow. We learn more about the centurion and the widow than we do the people who were healed, so we will focus on them. Jesus knew that they were in need, and he healed people that they cared about.**
3. **We are going to compare these two healing stories using a Venn diagram. I have drawn one of this piece of poster paper. Things that apply only to the centurion will go on the left side, and things that apply only to the widow will go on the right. Details that are the same in both stories will go in the center.**
4. Read the following statements aloud, with the question: which character does this describe? Place the detail in the appropriate space on the Venn diagram. For example, the correct answer to the first question is the centurion. You would write “sent friends to ask Jesus for help” on the left side of the diagram only.
 - **Sent his friends to ask Jesus for help.** *[Centurion.]*
 - **Had someone they cared about who was in need of healing.** *[Both.]*
 - **Jesus cared about this person.** *[Both.]*

- Was a soldier. *[Centurion.]*
 - Jesus found this person before they even asked for help. *[Widow.]*
 - Did not have any family left. *[Widow.]*
 - It surprised people that Jesus helped this person. *[Both.]*
 - Jesus healed them with just a word. *[Both.]*
 - Son was raised from the dead. *[Widow.]*
 - Jesus praised this person's faith. *[Centurion.]*
5. The centurion and the widow were in some ways very different people. One was a strong military commander who eventually went to find Jesus for himself. The other was a poor widow with nowhere to turn. Jesus chose to help her before she even knew that Jesus was there.
 6. However, both of them were in categories that made others consider them outsiders. The centurion was not an Israelite, and many thought Jesus would not care about him. The widow was often forgotten because she did not have a husband to protect her. To many people, they did not seem very important, but to Jesus, everyone is important. Jesus welcomed both of them and provided healing for those they loved.
 7. Jesus welcomes all people, no matter what kind of category they are in. Whether they go to church or they do not, whether they are young or old, whether they are kind or not, Jesus cares about all people.
 8. Jesus' healing is also for everyone. No one is unimportant to Jesus.
 9. We have categories too that we use to describe people, as we saw in our first activity. There are times when these categories can be helpful, but often they are not. We can follow Jesus' lead and try to see everyone first as a child of God instead of seeing them in certain categories or as different from us.



Activity (15 minutes)

Prayer Jar

Pray for the healing of others.

Supplies:

- † Clean jars
- † Craft sticks
- † Glue
- † Markers
- † Variety of decorations: paper, ribbon, sequins, etc.

Instructions:

1. The centurion wanted his slave to be healed, and his friends brought that need to Jesus, and then the centurion went to Jesus on behalf of his slave. We can also pray for healing for those in our lives who need it most. We can pray for those we know and love who are in need.
2. Sometimes we might not know what it is they need on a certain day, but we can trust that God knows. Just like Jesus knew the widow needed help, before she even told him, Jesus knows all our needs too.
3. Pass out jars, ten craft sticks and decorating supplies to each person.
4. Take some time to decorate your jar and then write one name on each craft stick of someone you love and care about. Find a time each day to draw one name out of the jar and bring that person before Jesus in prayer. Say a short prayer for that person before placing their stick back in the jar. This will help us to bring the needs of others to Jesus in prayer.

Activity (10 minutes)

Word Spread

Discover how the word about healings spread.

Supplies:

- † Clear drinking glass
- † Coffee filters
- † Water
- † Markers
- † Newspaper or plastic table covering

Instructions:

1. **At the end of our story today, it said that word spread quickly about Jesus and his healings. We are going to do an experiment to see how it might have spread quickly.**
2. Gather around the supplies.
3. **Draw a large circle using a marker on the coffee filters at the base of the folded lines where a natural circle forms on a basket-shaped filter or an inch or more from the center on a cone-shaped filter. Go over the lines of your circle two or three times.**
4. **Fold your coffee filter in half and in half again. You should have a triangle shape.**
5. Fill the glass with about one inch of water.
6. **Place the folded coffee filter into the water, point down. The water should not be high enough to touch the colored circle. If it is, pour a little water out.**
7. **Watch what happens to the color.** Allow a few minutes for the water to be soaked up and color to run and cover the whole filter.
8. **What happened to the coffee filter?** *[The color spread over the whole thing.]*
9. **People were amazed that Jesus was able to heal someone with just a word and raise a dead person back to life. They were also amazed that Jesus welcomed and healed all sorts of people. They started sharing what they had seen, and word spread quickly. In no time, everyone knew. Just like the whole coffee filter was not in the water, or there was not color everywhere on the filter, but then there was, even people who had not seen Jesus with their own eyes began to hear about his ministry. Word spread to everyone.**



Prayer

Before ending, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

Let us pray:

We thank you Jesus, that your healing power is so strong that you healed the centurion's slave with just a word. May we remember the power of your Word. We pray that you will continue to heal those who are in need. Help us remember that everyone is included in your kingdom. May we welcome all people too, and be quick to help them when we can. Amen.

If you have the “Living the Word: Sharing God’s Story @ Home” sheet, remember to use it throughout the week as a part of your family devotions!

Two Stories of Healing

Looking at two stories in Luke.

The Centurion

The Widow

