## Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:5-13

#### Leader Guide

#### **Teachers Dig In**

#### Dig In to the Bible

- <u>Read:</u> Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:5-13
- <u>In This Passage:</u> A Roman officer asks Jesus to heal his dying servant. He recognizes that Jesus has authority over everything and compares it to his own limited authority over his soldiers. He knows Jesus has so much authority that he can just speak and heal the servant without having to travel to him.
- Bible Point: Jesus has authority over everything.
- <u>Summary Verse:</u> "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:3).

#### **Dig Deeper**

- <u>You'll Be Teaching:</u> Jesus has authority over everything. There are a lot of overwhelming things in a kid's world that can seem too big for a kid to deal with. When kids recognize that Jesus has authority over *everything*, those things will shrink in their minds in comparison with Jesus.
- <u>Think About:</u> Who are the authority figures in your life? How does the way they treat you shape your view of Jesus' authority?

#### **Dig In to Prayer**

• Pray for kids in your group to feel safe because they are under Jesus' authority.

#### **Quick Tip**

• Use your authority wisely. Be mindful that your enthusiasm will make all the difference in participation. If you're having a good time, your kids probably will, too. You can be a positive role model. At the same time, gauge whether kids might feel uncomfortable with an activity, such as reading, praying aloud, or doing something beyond their skill level. Encourage participation as much as you can, but don't make kids do something if they seem genuinely uncomfortable.

#### This Lesson at a Glance



Kids attend boot camp.

Supplies

Bible

# PRAYER

Kids think of an "up" and a "down" from the week and tell Jesus how those moments made them feel.



## JESUS CONNECTION

Kids do a science experiment to discover more about Jesus' authority.

#### Supplies

- 4x6 index cards (1 for you and 1 for each group of 6 kids, plus a few extras)
- small plastic cups half-full of water (2 for you and several for each group of 6 kids)
- bowls or trash cans
- paper towels

## SCRIPTURE SKILLS

Kids dance and then freeze when asked.

#### Supplies

- Bibles
  - "Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set" (purchase here)
- music player
- upbeat music

## **BIBLE MEMORY**

Kids play Simon Says as they learn a verse and explore what it's like to be in charge.

## ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Older kids follow the steps to draw a picture; younger kids color a picture of the Bible story.

#### Supplies

- "A Roman Officer Demonstrates Faith" Activity Page (1 per reader) (download <u>here</u>)
- "A Roman Officer Demonstrates Faith" Coloring Page (1 per nonreader) (download <u>here</u>)
- pencils
- crayons
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)



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#### Kids are challenged to demonstrate unusual skills.

### \*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



#### BIBLE MESSAGE

A Roman Officer Demonstrates Faith (Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:5-13)

[10 min]

Supplies

Bible

#### Discuss

Say: Before we get into the Bible story, I have a very important question for you.

Ask: • If you had a pet giraffe, what tricks would you want to teach it? Have kids turn to a partner to share. Then ask a few kids to share with everyone.

Say: It would be fun—and maybe challenging—to train a giraffe! When you have a pet, you have authority over that pet. That means you can tell the pet what to do, and it's supposed to obey you! Authority means you're in charge!

Today we're going to explore how <u>Jesus has authority over everything</u>. And he met a guy who knew and trusted in Jesus' authority!

#### **Have Boot Camp**

Open your Bible to Luke 7, and show kids the words.

Say: The guy who met Jesus was a Roman officer. That means he was a soldier. And not just any soldier—this guy had other soldiers who reported to him.

So let's imagine you're soldiers in training! I'm the Roman officer—so drop and give me five pushups! Allow time. As you take on the persona of a boot camp instructor, feel free to ham it up. For example, you could make kids say, "Sir, yes, sir!" or "Ma'am, yes, ma'am!"

**Now do jumping jacks until I say stop!** Allow about 20 seconds for jumping jacks, then call stop.

Now jog in place! Allow time.

Now sit back down. Pause. Sit straighter! Backs straight! Pause.

As your training leader, I have authority over you. I'm in charge! But in the Bible, the officer had a problem that was out of his control—something he *couldn't* be in charge of. It's like if I gave you these commands: Fly! Pause for kids to attempt.

**Make it start raining!** (If it's already raining, change to "make it *stop* raining.") Allow time for kids to attempt.

Ask: • Why didn't you do those things, even though I told you to do them?

Say: The officer had authority over soldiers and servants, so he was used to people obeying him. But one of his servants got really sick! The officer loved that servant and wanted him to get better.

Ask: • What would happen if the officer commanded his servant to get better? Take a few responses from the whole group.

The officer didn't have any authority over sickness, so there was nothing he could do.

But he knew <u>Jesus has authority over everything</u>—even sickness! So he sent people to ask Jesus for help.

As Jesus was heading to the house, the officer sent a message to Jesus.

Read Luke 7:6-7.

Say: The officer believed that Jesus has authority over everything, and Jesus' authority is so great that he doesn't even have to be in the place where the problem is! So Jesus healed the servant without even going to see him! When the messengers returned home, the servant was all better! Lead kids in jumping up like the healed servant might have done when he felt better.

Sometimes we like to try to fix our own problems. But don't forget to ask Jesus for help! Jesus has authority over everything. He's in charge!



PRAYER **Telling Jesus How We Feel** 

Pray About "Ups" and "Downs"

Say: Today we're discovering that Jesus has authority over everything. In today's Bible story, the Roman officer went through some ups and downs, but through it all, he knew that Jesus was in charge.

Ask: • How do you think the Roman officer felt when he heard his servant was sick?

• How do you think he felt when he found out that his servant was completely healed?

We feel [emotions mentioned], too, sometimes. We can always talk with Jesus about our emotions. Jesus cares about how we feel and is ready to lovingly listen.

Let's pray and tell Jesus about our feelings from this week. I'll ask you a question, then you'll silently tell Jesus your answer. As we pray, please close your eyes so you can focus on talking with Jesus.

Ask: • What's one good thing that happened to you this week? Give thumbs-up as you silently tell Jesus about that good thing. Pause for 10-20 seconds while kids pray.

 How does that good thing make you feel? Happy? Excited? Important? Keep those thumbs up as you tell Jesus how you felt about that "up" time. Pause for another 10-20 seconds while kids pray.

Say: Now let's tell Jesus how we feel about a not-so-good thing that happened this week. Remember, Jesus cares and is listening to you.

Ask: • What's one not-so-good thing that happened to you this week? Give thumbs-down as you silently tell Jesus about that thing. Pause again, giving kids time to pray.

• How does that not-so-good thing make you feel? Sad? Mad? Afraid? Keep those thumbs down as you tell Jesus how you feel about that "down" time. Pause for 10-20 seconds while kids prav.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you that even though you have authority over everything in the whole world, you still care about us and how we feel. You are so good and kind. We love you. In your name, amen.

Say: Jesus has authority over everything, and we can talk with Jesus about everything we're feeling.

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JESUS CONNECTION Gravity Busters

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- 4x6 index cards (1 for you and 1 for each group of 6 kids, plus a few extras)
- small plastic cups half-full of water (2 for you and several for each group of 6 kids)
- bowls or trash cans
- paper towels

#### <u>Tips</u>

- Be sure to try the experiment ahead of time so you're comfortable with it.
- Plastic cups work better than paper. The rim of a paper cup can bend, allowing air in and breaking the seal between the paper and cup.

#### Explore the Law of Gravity

Hold a cup that's half-full of water.

Say: We all have to follow certain laws. One law we all have to follow is the law of gravity. Turn the cup upside down over a trash can or bowl. Gravity is a law of science—it means things fall, like this water did. You're obeying the law of gravity by sitting there and not floating into the air. Let's experience it in a different way. Stand up! Let kids stand up and then fall to the ground. Applaud them for being good, law-abiding kids!

I wonder if everything has to follow that law. Let's find out! Demonstrate the air pressure experiment first by following these steps.

- Hold up a cup that's filled halfway with water. (The experiment works with a full cup, but you'll waste less water with half a cup.)
- Set the index card on top of the cup, completely covering the opening.
- Hold the index card firmly (and flatly) against the rim of the cup, then turn the cup upside down.
- Move your hand away from the card—it should stay in place!
- If you have more than six kids, form mixed-age small groups and give each group a card, a cup of water, and a bowl for disposing of the water. Or let kids gather around a trash can.
- Guide kids in doing the experiment in their small groups. If water spills, provide a new cup.
- When each group has tried, throw away supplies and gather everyone together.

#### Make the Jesus Connection

Ask: • Did you get to break the law of gravity? Tell me more about that. Say: It may have seemed like the card and water defied gravity! But another science law about air pressure was *also* happening. And that law was more powerful than the pull of gravity!

Ask: • Name some things we're not in control of—but Jesus is. Guide kids in things such as weather, sickness, how fast we grow, or what happens in our future. Design and base content Copyright © Group Publishing, a division of David C Cook. Licensed for use with 1-20 students. Permission to reproduce granted for local church use only. Say: The Roman officer understood that <u>Jesus has authority over</u> <u>everything</u>. Jesus showed that he had power over things like wind, water, sickness, and death—things we can't control! When things around us seem to be falling down or falling apart, it's good to know that Jesus is more powerful. Jesus has authority over everything!



# SCRIPTURE SKILLS

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- Bibles
- "Hands-On Bible: Books of the Bible Poster Set" (purchase here)
- music player
- upbeat music

#### <u>Tips</u>

- It may take a while for kids to find the Bible verse. That's okay! This activity is primarily about building Bible navigation skills.
- If you have a lot of non-readers, have some picture Bibles on hand for them to flip through as older kids look up verses. They won't look for anything specific, but they can look at the pictures to practice paging through Bibles.
- Find upbeat worship music and other great DIG IN resources here.

#### Explore Matthew 28:18

#### Say: The Roman officer knew that <u>Jesus has authority over everything</u>, even sickness. That means Jesus is in charge of everything! Let's see what Jesus had to say about his own authority.

Make sure kids all have Bibles. Younger kids can sit with older kids so they can observe the skills of using their Bibles even before being able to read.

Say: Our Bible verse is in the book of Matthew, chapter 28, verse 18. Let's find the book of Matthew. That's the first book in the New Testament—which is the later part of the Bible. Open your Bible kind of near the back. Allow time.

- Point to the book of Matthew on the poster so kids can see the name and what books come before and after it.
- Mention that the chapter numbers are the big numbers, and help kids find the big 28 in Matthew.
- Mention that the verse numbers are the small numbers, and help kids find the small 18 in Matthew 28.
- When everyone has found the verse, ask someone to read Matthew 28:18 aloud.

Say: Jesus has authority over everything. That means there's nothing he isn't in charge of.

#### Freeze

#### Say: Let's think more about being in charge with a game.

- Choose one child to be the first Freezer.
- Play upbeat music and encourage kids to dance.
- Give the Freezer control over the pause and play buttons.
- When the Freezer pauses the music, have kids freeze in place.

- When the Freezer presses play, kids can dance again.
- Repeat the process, as time allows, changing Freezers frequently.

Ask: • How did it feel to be the Freezer—the one with all the authority in this game?

· What's something you wish you could control?

Say: We may have authority over some things, like when we're the leaders in a game. But we can't control everything! Only <u>Jesus has authority</u> <u>over everything</u>. We can trust him and turn to him when we need help, just like the Roman officer did.



BIBLE MEMORY Trust in the Lord

**Play Simon Says** 

Say: The Bible is filled with all kinds of amazing things Jesus wants us to know about him and how we can live in friendship with him. Let's learn a Bible verse that helps us know that <u>Jesus has authority over everything</u>. When someone has authority, that means they're in charge.

Psalm 40:3 says, "Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord."

A lord is someone who is in charge of something. In our Bible story, the Roman officer was lord over his soldiers—he was in charge. We sometimes call Jesus "*The* Lord" because Jesus is in charge of *everything*!

Let's play Simon Says to help us understand the word *lord* better.

- For the first round, lead the game of Simon Says, demonstrating how to give commands preceded by "Simon says" for kids to do and commands not preceded by "Simon says" for kids not to do.
- Call a variety of directions quickly and with authority.
- Try these ideas, and add your own: Hop up and down, fly like an airplane, spin around in a circle, pat your head, and cluck like a chicken.
- Also include directions to say the Bible verse in different ways (slowly, fast, in a high voice, in a robot voice, and so on).
- Let kids have turns as Simon, but prompt them to direct everyone to say the Bible verse periodically.

**Talk About It** 

Ask: • What do you think—was Simon good at being in charge in our game? Tell why.

• What makes someone a good leader?

Say: Good leaders give good directions. They show you what to do and are willing to do whatever it is, too. I don't know if the Roman officer was a good leader, but he definitely understood what it means to have authority. He asked Jesus to use his authority because Jesus is a good leader we can trust. Jesus has authority over everything.

[10 min]



#### ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT Do as I Say

Supplies

- "A Roman Officer Demonstrates Faith" Activity Page (1 per reader) (download <u>here</u>)
- "A Roman Officer Demonstrates Faith" Coloring Page (1 per non-reader) (download <u>here</u>)
- pencils
- crayons
- three-hole punch and binders (optional)

#### <u>Tip</u>

• **WARNING!** Don't just print and distribute! <u>Here's why</u>.

#### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: Jesus has authority over everything. That means he's in charge. The Roman officer told his soldiers what to do, and they did it, because he had authority. Jesus has authority even over sickness and death! They have to do what he says.

Let's practice following authority.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will follow the steps to draw a picture.

Ask: • How well do you think you would have done without the steps to show you what to do?

• How can it be helpful to obey authority?

Say: Jesus has authority over everything. He knows what to do, so let's follow what he says!

#### Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: A Roman officer knew what it meant to have authority. It meant he was in charge of his soldiers! And he also knew <u>Jesus has authority over everything</u>. Jesus just spoke the word and the officer's servant got better! Let's color that.

Allow time for kids to color.

When kids finish coloring, three-hole-punch their pages and put them into binders, if desired.



#### **Demonstrate Skills**

Say: The Roman officer knew that <u>Jesus has authority over everything</u>. But it wasn't just something he *said* he knew. He proved it by his actions!

Ask: • What kinds of actions demonstrate that a person has faith in Jesus?

Say: When we really have faith, it shows by how we act. Now, I've heard that some of you have special skills. It's time to prove it by *your* actions! And if you don't think you have the skill I name, I still want you to try it!

- Have kids stand in a circle so they can see how others are also attempting to demonstrate or mime a skill.
- Call out these skills: tightrope walker, juggler (of tennis balls...bowling balls...chain saws!), fashion model, avocado impersonator, basketball dribbler, tree climber, ballerina, skydiver, skateboarder, high diver, weightlifter, and sword fighter.
- Let the game keep going as long as needed to fill time until parents begin to arrive. If you run out of ideas on the list, have kids share their own ideas for random and hilarious talents.

[10 min]