Sunday school lesson - Upper Primary

BIG IDEA	The faith God commends
Bible Reading	Luke 7:1-10
Preparation	Read Luke 7:1-10 Unlike other passages featuring miracles, the focus of this passage is not so much on the miracle itself, but on the faith of the Centurion. The Centurion is an unlikely person to demonstrate such clear faith, but we have seen that it is often the outsider and the unexpected who turn to Jesus. The Centurion demonstrates what genuine faith looks like – a recognition of unworthiness, and a complete trust in God's goodness and power to save. Jesus commends this faith and shows that the Centurion was right to put his faith in him by healing his servant.
	Take home message: Truth faith recognises our unworthiness and trusts God's word is powerful to save.
	Prepare for "Getting Started": Make a set of scales using a coat hanger, 2 pieces of string and 2 plastic cups. Get objects to be weighed in the scales. Get a map showing Capernaum for use during the lesson.
Getting Started	Show pairs of objects and get children to guess which object is heavier. Use the scales to test.
1. Recognition of unworthiness	 Last time we learnt about the types of things we see in our lives (fruit) that show we have a changed heart. What sorts of things show this? After teaching people about what it means to follow him, Jesus and his followers moved on to Capernaum (could show on a map) Read Luke 7:1-3 Q: What is happening in another part of Capernaum as Jesus enters it? Q: How does the Centurion feel about his servant? What does he do? Q: What sort of man do you think the Centurion was? Read Luke 7:4-5 Q: How do the Jewish elders describe the Centurion? What had he done? The Centurion was not Jewish. He worked for the occupying forces (the enemy). And yet he is described as loving the nation of Israel and doing something for them that would have been at great cost to himself (building a synagogue). It would be like Therefore, the Jewish elders told Jesus that the Centurion was deserving of his help. He had done enough to earn help from Jesus. Read Luke 7:6-7 Q: How did the Centurion describe himself? Q: Why do you think the Centurion still believed himself unworthy, even after all the good and selfless things he had done? The Centurion knew that even all the good he had done did not put in him in a position where Jesus owed him anything.

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	> Use scales (either a picture of ones made earlier) to demonstrate that any good
	things we do can't tip the balance in our favour – like adding a feather to a heavy
	weight on the other side. The Centurion understood the truth of this.
2. Trust in Jesus'	Read Luke 7:6-8
words	Q: What did the Centurion say to Jesus?
	Q: How do you think the soldiers under him responded when given a command?
	Q: What does the Centurion say Jesus can command by his words?
	> The Centurion recognises that Jesus has the same authority that he has, but that
	Jesus' authority is over something that no person could command. Jesus can
	command sickness to go away, and it must obey!
	> The Centurion is so confident that Jesus' words must be obeyed, that he even
	says that Jesus doesn't need to be in the same place – he could speak from a
	distance and his words would still need to be obeyed!
	Q: What does that tell you about what the Centurion thought about Jesus?
3. Faith rewarded	Read Luke 7:9-10
	Q: What did Jesus say when he heard what the Centurion had said?
	Q: What made Jesus say that the Centurion had "great faith"?
	> The Centurion knew that Jesus' words were powerful, and he could trust them.
	He also knew that he didn't deserve Jesus to help him but trusted him to help
	him anyway.
	Q: What was the result of the Centurion's faith?
	> Jesus showed that the Centurion was right to have faith in him. He healed his
	servant, just by his words.
	➤ He also publicly commends the Centurion's faith – which means the people
	around him would also see what real faith looks like.
So What?	Q: Can you put into your own words how the Centurion demonstrated faith?
	• Q: What would that look like for us – to show the same kind of faith?
	Q: How do you think God responds to anyone who recognises they don't deserve
	anything, but come to him anyway asking for him to rescue them?
Memory Verse	Micah 6:8
	He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To
	act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Sunday school lesson - Lower Primary

BIG IDEA	The faith God commends
Bible Reading	Luke 7:1-10
Preparation	Read Luke 7:1-10 Unlike other passages featuring miracles, the focus of this passage is not so much on the miracle itself, but on the faith of the Centurion. The Centurion is an unlikely person to demonstrate such clear faith, but we have seen that it is often the outsider and the unexpected who turn to Jesus. The Centurion demonstrates what genuine faith looks like — a recognition of unworthiness, and a complete trust in God's goodness and power to save. Jesus commends this faith and shows that the Centurion was right to put his faith in him by healing his servant.
	Take home message: Truth faith recognises our unworthiness and trusts God's word is powerful to save. Prepare for "Getting Started": Make a set of scales using a coat hanger, 2 pieces of string and 2 plastic cups. Get objects to be weighed in the scales Get a map showing Capernaum for use during the lesson.
Getting Started	Show pairs of objects and get children to guess which object is heavier. Use the scales to test.
Finding Out 1. Recognition of unworthiness	 Last time we learnt what it looks like to truly trust and obey God. Q: Can you remember some of the things we see in people who are following God? (Use pictures of smiley face, heart and eye as a reminder) Today we are going to find out about someone who understood what it means to truly follow God. Jesus and his followers travelled to a place called Capernaum. (Show on a map) There was an important man who lived in Capernaum. He was a soldier. He was the boss soldier, called a centurion- who told everyone what to do. The centurion had a servant who was very sick. He was worried about him and wanted to help him. Read Luke 7:3 Q: What did the centurion do? Q: Could Jesus make the sick servant better? The centurion's friends found Jesus and asked him to come and help. They told Jesus all about the good things that the centurion had done. He had helped them and been kind to them, and even built a building for them to worship God in. They asked Jesus to come and help the soldier because he had done so many good things. They told Jesus he should help the centurion because he was good. Q: Do you think the centurion was good? Q: What do you think the centurion would say if you asked him if he was good? This is what the centurion said when he heard Jesus was coming to help Read Luke 7:6-7 Q: Did the centurion think he was a good person?

	No! He knew that even with all the good things he had done, he still didn't deserve Jesus to help him.
	 Use scales to demonstrate that any good things we do can't remove the weight
	of the bad things, like adding a feather to a heavy weight on the other side.
	 Talk about some of the good things we do. These are still good to do, but they
	can't fix the problem, because they can't take away the bad things.
	can this the problem, because they can t take away the bad things.
2. Trust in Jesus'	Q: What do you think the other soldiers did when the Centurion gave them a
words	command to do something (like "Stand in a straight line)?
	Read Luke 7:7-8
	Q: What did the centurion say to Jesus?
	> The centurion said that, in the same way that he could tell his soldiers to obey
	and straight away they did what he said, that Jesus could do the same thing with
	sickness!
	> Jesus could say "Sickness! Go away" – and the sickness would have to obey him!
	Q: Do you know anyone that can do that?
	The soldier trusted that Jesus was powerful, and that even sickness had to do
	what he said.
	➤ He trusted him so much, that he knew Jesus didn't even have to be in the same
	place. He could be far away, and still command the sickness to leave!
3. Faith rewarded	➤ When Jesus heard what the soldier had said about him, Jesus was amazed!
	Read Luke 7:9
	> He said that the soldier had "great faith", which means that the soldier trusted
	Jesus to be able to help him, even though he knew he didn't deserve it.
	Q: What do you think happened to the soldier's servant who was sick?
	Read Luke 7:10
	Jesus made the servant well again – just by speaking!
	The soldier was right to trust that Jesus could help him. Jesus showed that he
	could help him. All he had to do was speak, and the servant was made better.
So What	Q: What do you think God says to anyone who comes to him and says, "I know I
	don't deserve your help, but I trust you can help me. Please save me"?
	Q: What do you want to say to God?
Memory Verse	Micah 6:8
ciiioi y veise	He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To
	act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
	decipating and to love mercy and to walk number with your dod.

Sunday school lesson - Pre-School

BIG IDEA	The faith God commends
Bible Reading	Luke 7:1-10
Preparation	Read Luke 7:1-10 Unlike other passages featuring miracles, the focus of this passage is not so much on the miracle itself, but on the faith of the Centurion. The Centurion is an unlikely person to demonstrate such clear faith, but we have seen that it is often the outsider and the unexpected who turn to Jesus. The Centurion demonstrates what genuine faith looks like — a recognition of unworthiness, and a complete trust in God's goodness and power to save. Jesus commends this faith and shows that the Centurion was right to put his faith in him by healing his servant.
	Take home message: Truth faith recognises our unworthiness and trusts God's word is powerful to save. Prepare for "Getting Started": Make a set of scales using a coat hanger, 2 pieces of string and 2 plastic cups. Get objects to be weighed in the scales
Getting Started	Show pairs of objects and get children to guess which object is heavier. Use the scales to test. Or play "Simon Says".
Finding Out 1. Recognition of unworthiness	 Last time we learnt about some people who thought they were following God's rules, but they really weren't. They were not being kind or helping people. Today we are going to find out about someone who understood what it means to truly follow God. Jesus and his followers travelled to a place called Capernaum. There was an important man who lived in Capernaum. He was a soldier. He was the boss soldier-who told everyone what to do. The boss soldier had a servant who was very sick. He was worried about him and wanted to help him. So, he sent some of his friends to Jesus to ask him to come and make his sick servant better. Q: Could Jesus make the sick servant better? The soldier's friends found Jesus and asked him to come and help. They told Jesus all about the good things that the soldier had done. He had helped them and been kind to them, and even built a building for them to worship God in. They asked Jesus to come and help the soldier because he had done so many good things. They told Jesus he should help the soldier because he was good. Q: Do you think the boss soldier was good? Q: What do you think the boss soldier would say if you asked him if he was good? This is what the soldier said when he heard Jesus was coming to help

	Read Luke 7:6b
	Q: Did the soldier think he was a good person?
	➤ No! He knew that even with all the good things he had done, he still didn't
	deserve Jesus to help him.
	Use scales to demonstrate that any good things we do can't remove the weight of the bad things, like adding a feather to a heavy weight on the other side.
2. Trust in Jesus'	Q: What do you think the other soldiers did when the boss soldier gave
words	them a command to do something (like "Stand in a straight line)? Act out a soldier giving instructions and everyone else obeying.
	Read Luke 7:7b
	Q: What did the boss soldier say to Jesus?
	➤ The soldier said that, in the same way that he could tell his soldiers to obey and straight away they did what he said, that Jesus could do the same thing with sickness!
	Jesus could say "Sickness! Go away" – and the sickness would have to obey him!
	Q: Do you know anyone that can do that?
	The soldier trusted that Jesus was powerful, and that even sickness had to do what he said.
3. Faith rewarded	When Jesus heard what the soldier had said about him, Jesus was amazed!
	➤ He said that the soldier had "great faith", which means that the soldier
	trusted Jesus to be able to help him, even though he knew he didn't
	deserve it.
	Q: What do you think happened to the soldier's servant who was sick?
	Read Luke 7:10
	> Jesus made the servant well again – just by speaking!
	The soldier was right to trust that Jesus could help him. Jesus showed that
	he could help him. All he had to do was speak, and the servant was made better.
So What	Q: What do you think God says to anyone who comes to him and says, "I know I
	don't deserve your help, but I trust you can help me. Please save me"?
	Q: What do you want to say to God?
Memory Verse	Micah 6:8
	He has shown you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To
	act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.