

Primary

Exploring Beliefs in Action in the World

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REtoday
Services

Jesus helps a stranger – the Roman centurion (Luke ch.7, vs1-10)

For the teacher

The activities in this section focus on the story of Jesus helping a Roman soldier, someone who was, at that time, often hated as an enemy. The activities can be used to help children think about what we can learn from Jesus about

- treating people as individuals
- being kind and caring towards those who may be rejected by others.

Information file



- At the time of Jesus many Jews hated the Romans who had invaded and occupied the land of Palestine.
- The centurion in this story is shown to be a kind, respectful man. He goes out of his way to help a trusted servant. He has shown respect to the Jews by building a synagogue for them, and shows respect to Jesus.
- Jesus looks at the person – not the uniform – and is impressed with the centurion's personal faith and kindness.

Jesus heals the Roman centurion's servant

Jesus went into a city. An important man in the army, an officer in charge of 100 men, had a servant who was very poorly. The servant was in a lot of pain and could not get out of bed.

Some friends of the centurion came to see Jesus.

'Please help', they begged. 'This Roman centurion is a good man. He is kind to us and helps us. Please help him.'

Jesus said he would go straight away to see the centurion's servant.

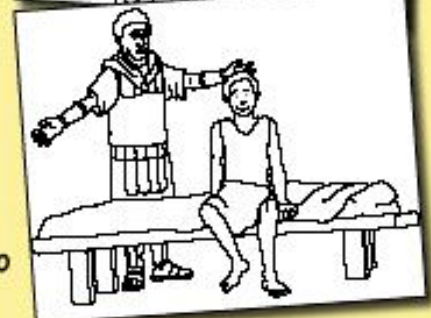
Before he got to the house, the Roman soldier came out to meet Jesus.

'I'm not good enough for you to come into my house,' he told Jesus. 'Please just give the order and I know my servant will be healed. I know you can do that.'

Jesus was amazed because the army officer had so much faith and trust in him. Jesus said to the army officer, 'Go home. Your servant will be well again.'

At that moment the man started to get better. He sat up, got out of bed and began to move around. It was a miracle!

The servant had been healed because his master had so much faith and kindness.



For the teacher

Enlarge the statements below and print them onto cards. Ask pupils to:

- Pick out any cards which reflect what
 - the centurion did in this story
 - Jesus did in the story.
- Next ask pupils to write about some of these inside an enlarged outline drawing of the centurion and of Jesus.
- Next, ask each child to pick two cards for themselves. In pairs, talk about how they could put these into action themselves, e.g. make others feel happy, make others feel better. Ask children to write their ideas inside the child-shaped outline (copied and enlarged!). Make a wall display for the story.

cared for other people	was kind to someone he did not know	did what people asked him to do
listened to other people	made others happy	spent time with people
made someone feel better	helped someone in need	was unkind to people he did not like

