



PK-2nd

The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2016-2017)

Lesson #3-20
Luke 7:1-17

The Point

God is revealed in Jesus, who heals and welcomes outsiders in the Bible, just as he can heal and welcome us all. Today's story is important because Jesus still provides healing by giving us opportunities to love each other and God. Healing and forgiveness comes to us all through God revealed in Jesus. Just like the centurion, outsiders are now a part of God's family. In the same way, the lowest of these like the widow are important in God's eyes. Healing and wholeness is for all and can be found in Jesus the Messiah.

Story Summary: Healing the Sick and Raising the Dead

It is in today's story that we hear two different ways that Jesus healed people. The first is a centurion who is a commander in the Roman Empire, whose worker got very sick. The centurion was not a Jewish man, but a Gentile who was a faithful and righteous man and believed in Jesus. The second story is about a widow. Her only son who was responsible for her

well-being, got sick and died. This was a big problem for her as she didn't have anyone who would love and care for her. She was in great need of help, and no one wanted to help her because she was an outcast because she was a widow. The outsider and the lowest of the low had faith in Jesus, and he healed their loved ones. God is revealed in Jesus, who heals and welcomes outsiders in the Bible, just as he can heal and welcome us all.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

Prayer is our way of talking to God. For some, praying while being active is the best way to pray, while others pray best in the quiet. There is no right or wrong way to pray. Over the next few weeks we will explore creative ways to pray. This week, try praying in color. Grab a piece of paper and some markers or crayons. As a family write or draw your prayers. You can pray for family, friends, people in your community or around the world.

Last Week/Next Week

Last week we were reminded that Jesus deepens humanity's understanding of the Sabbath to be a life giving practice beyond abstaining from work, to the serving of others. Next week we hear about John the Baptist and how he proclaimed God's new kingdom. We are reminded again that Jesus, the Messiah, has come to heal the sick and oppressed. We too are called to proclaim God's goodness just like John the Baptist.

Bible Nuts and Bolts: Roman Empire

The Roman Empire was an empire with a territory throughout the Mediterranean Sea, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Throughout the New Testament, the Roman Empire's influence is made known through people such as the centurion in today's story. The life for those in the Jewish community was different than those in the Roman Empire.

Family Discussions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. Help your children to imagine what it would have been like to be the people contained in the stories. What is God's message to them—and to us?

- ✦ What are some ways that we can welcome people into our church?
- ✦ How can we help those who are in need of healing?
- ✦ What do you think it would feel like to be lonely like the widow from today's story?

Family Devotions

Pick a time each day to gather together and read the following excerpts that share stories from a variety of geographical locations. It would be a great opportunity to find a map in the back of a Bible to further explore the world during biblical times. Engage in a few activities that help you better understand God's message of love to people living in those places as well as where you live today.

Sunday—Read Luke 7:1-17—Healing the Sick and Raising the Dead

Jesus heals the centurion's worker and the widow's son. Jesus welcomes and heals us all. Take time to help those in need by making cards or a fruit basket and deliver them sometime this week to a local assistant living facility.

Monday—Read Luke 8:40-56—A Girl Raised and a Woman Healed

Jesus brings a little girl back to life and heals a sick woman. Jesus continues in his ministry of healing the broken and lost. Pray for those who are sick. You can call your church for a list of people who are in need of prayer.

Tuesday—Read John 11:38-44—Jesus Raises Lazarus

Jesus weeps for the death of his friend Lazarus. He then brings his good friend back to life. Take time to talk about your child's friends. Find ways to support friends when in need, such as listening when a friend has their feelings hurt.

Wednesday—Read Luke 18:1-8—The Widow and the Unjust Judge

Jesus tells a story about a widow who is persistent and keeps asking for justice. As a family, discuss the many ways that people are treated unfairly in our world. Take time to discuss ways we can help and pray for those in need.

Thursday—Read Acts 10:1-16—Peter and Cornelius

Peter had a vision about unclean food becoming clean. God reminds us that we have a new way of living because of Jesus. Draw the many ways that we have a new way of living because of Jesus. Pictures could include a broken heart made new, food we can eat like the food from today's story, worshipping God.

Friday—Read Deuteronomy 24:17-22—Treatment of Widows, Foreigners, and Orphans

God reminds us to care for the orphans, widows and foreigners. We are told to give what we can to other in need. Research different organizations that help those who are in need and plan a date and time to go help. Organizations could include a community food kitchen, food pantry, or orphanage.

Saturday—Read Luke 8:26-39—Jesus Heals the Gerasene Demoniac

Jesus heals a man who is filled with many demons. Jesus sent the man to proclaim the good news of God. Discuss how we too have times when we are consumed with things like anger or hate. Talk through step to help us keep away from being angry or hateful toward others. Pray and ask God to guide you.