

The Centurion—February 2021, Week 3

Today's Bible Story: Jesus loves me and wants to help me.

The Centurion • *Matthew 8:5-13*

Memory Verse: "A friend loves at all times." Proverbs 17:17, NIV

Key Question: Who loves you?

Bottom Line: Jesus loves me.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

VIDEO: The Centurion: *Watch today's Bible Story Video with Pastor Robin!*

REVIEW ACTIVITY

Noodle Necklace

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: "Noodle Heart" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, hole punch, pasta, yarn, and a marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and hang on the door. Copy "Noodle Heart" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Hole punch each heart at the top. Cut yarn in 18-inch lengths, one per child.

During the Activity: Encourage children to string pasta and their "Noodle Heart" on their yarn. Help tie a knot to secure. Help them put on their necklaces.

After the Activity: Review the Bible story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's make a 'Jesus loves me' necklace! Come sit at the table with me."

During the Activity: "String the pasta and a heart on your yarn. *(Pause.)* Add as many pieces of pasta as you want. *(Pause.)* Nice job, friends. Let me help you tie it together. *(Pause.)* You can put your necklaces on and wear them home."

After the Activity: "The heart on your necklace says, 'Jesus loves me.' Jesus loves each and every one of us, and He wants to be your friend forever. **Who loves you? [Bottom Line] Jesus loves me.**"

MEMORY VERSE

SAY: "Our Bible story, today, was about how Jesus wants to help people. The Centurion heard that Jesus has the power to help people and that He wants to help people. That's why he went to ask Jesus

for help when his servant was so sick. What did Jesus do when the Centurion asked Him to help his servant? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus made the Centurion's servant all better!

"Jesus helps people because Jesus loves us. And we know that a friend loves at all times. That's what the Bible verse we have been learning says.

"A friend loves at all times.' Proverbs 17:17.

"Let's stand up and say that together with the motions."

"**A friend** *(hook your pointer fingers together)*
loves *(hug yourself)*
at all times,' *(stretch your arms out and turn in a circle)*
Proverbs 17:17." *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SAY: "Jesus is a good friend, and He loves you all the time! **Who loves you?"**
"Jesus loves me!"

JOURNAL AND PRAYER

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paper/Prayer Journal, and A Marker or Fun Pen

SAY: "Since Jesus wants to help you and me, I think we should make a list of things we need help with. Then when we pray, we can use the list to ask Jesus to help us, just like the Centurion asked Jesus for help. When I say your name, tell me one thing you need help with, and I will write it in our prayer journal. Get ready and listen for your name!

(Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"This is a great list! It's important to talk to Jesus when we need help. Let's use this list when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to help us. Thank You that Jesus is always with us, listening, and ready to help. Please help [child's name] with [what they listed]. Please help [child's name] with [what they listed]. Please help . . . *(continue with each child)*. We believe Jesus can help us. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

