

**WE NEED JESUS**

# We need to trust Jesus

**MATTHEW 8:5-13**

**faith**  **kids**

# We need Jesus – We need to trust Jesus

MATTHEW 8:5-13



## Big Idea:

Jesus has power over sickness. He speaks and what he wills is done. I can trust him.



## Faith in Kids looks like:

Children who have confidence that Jesus is in charge so they can trust him.



## Where are we going?

A centurion came to Jesus. He was a powerful man, an agent of Rome, a ruler of men. When he says, “jump” his men say, “how high?” But he is powerless to help his servant and comes to Jesus for help. He recognises Jesus as the one with true power who is in charge of everything. He knows that he is unworthy to even have Jesus enter his house. Jesus commends this man – a Roman outsider, one of the enemy – as having greater faith than all those within Israel. Jesus warns that

many outsiders will come and enjoy being in God’s Kingdom, and many who think they are in will be left out because they had no faith. Like the centurion, we need to understand our own helplessness and depend totally on Jesus. Why should we trust him? Because Jesus spoke a word, and at that moment, miles away, the servant was made better. Sickness obeyed Jesus. Jesus is totally in charge. He is the king of heaven. We can trust him.



### Armour up!

Grab a play figure and use tin foil to make them look like a powerful Roman soldier. Or use a human and raid the dressing up box. You could set a time limit and make it a contest – kids v grown ups or Mum v Dad. Whose Centurion looks the most powerful? A larger group could play a game of “Centurion says” (Simon says).

➡ **Link:** The Centurion who came to Jesus in today’s Bible story was a powerful

man. He was a leader in the Roman army, in charge of 100 soldiers. When this guy spoke, people obeyed. But there was something even he couldn’t order around!



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to watch**

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## Teaching Time

### Younger children

Have ready a hat you can wear as a centurion (perhaps with some tin foil wrapped round) and some play figures as centurion, soldiers, servant and Jesus.

In today's Bible story we meet a powerful soldier. Put figure down to be the centurion. He was a Roman centurion, in charge of 100 men. Put your helmet on and get your children to follow your instructions: centurion says "March!" centurion says "Stand still" etc." The centurion was used to being in charge and telling people what to do. Here he is with his soldiers. Place figures down to be soldiers. Could he tell them what to do? YES! What about his servants. Place another figure to be the servant. Could he tell them what to do? YES! He was in charge of them. But there was a problem in his house that he was not in charge of. Lie servant down. His servant was sick and he

couldn't do anything to help. He was not in charge of sickness! Who could help him? Jesus could. Even this powerful man knew he needed Jesus.

The centurion went to Jesus, who was a long way away. Place Jesus figure on the other side of the room. Get the children to bring the centurion over. Jesus said he would come and help, but this important soldier knew that Jesus was even more powerful than he was. The centurion said, "I don't deserve for you to come to my house, Jesus – just speak, and my servant will get better". Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith. The centurion understood that Jesus was in charge of everything so he trusted Him.

Jesus spoke, and straight away – all the way over here – the servant was better. Stand servant up. Jesus is in charge, even over sickness. We can trust him.

### Older children

Read Matthew 8:5–13 together

Have ready a soldier picture / figure and 2 large paper speech bubbles.

Write CENTURION on your first speech bubble. Write these answers on the speech bubble:

- Who was he in charge of? v9
- What could he not fix? v6
- Why did Jesus not need to come to his house? v8

The centurion wasn't born a Jew. He was not one of God's chosen people. So it was really surprising when Jesus said that he will be part of the kingdom of heaven. He should be an outsider, but instead he gets to sit at the table next to famous men like Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who were part of God's people.

Even more surprisingly, some of Jesus' Jewish listeners were discovering that they will be thrown out of the kingdom of heaven. How can that happen? Jesus says it's all about faith. The centurion trusted that Jesus could heal his servant. He understood that Jesus was in charge. The people who get thrown out are the people who don't have faith. They don't trust Jesus. It's the same for us. Believing that Jesus is in charge, and trusting him is what gets us into his kingdom.

Write JESUS on your second speech bubble. Write these answers on the speech bubble:

- What is Jesus in charge of? (v10–12)
- What could Jesus fix? v13
- Why can we trust Jesus?



# Hearts and Hands

## Younger children

### Craft time

Design some armour to help you remember that Jesus is in charge. You could make a shield, a breast plate or a sword (if you are feeling brave) out of cardboard / a cereal box and decorate with pens, foil and stickers. Write on your armour, "I can trust Jesus".

### Did you spot it?

- What was the centurion in charge of?
- What couldn't he fix?
- What did Jesus do with just his words?

### Work it out

- What did the centurion think about Jesus?
- How did the centurion show that he trusted Jesus?

### So what?

- Complete this sentence, "I can trust Jesus because....."

### Pray

Thank you Jesus that you are in charge. When you speak it happens. Help us to trust you even in hard times. Amen.

## Older children

### Make time

Look up a picture of a Roman centurion – they have really impressive looking shields. Design your own shield. Make it look amazing, or use it to defend yourself from some enemy attacks of balled-up socks thrown at you by your family.

### Did you spot it?

- Who was the centurion in charge of?
- What did he tell them to do?
- What was he unable to control?

### Work it out

- What did the centurion understand about Jesus?
- What did Jesus say was great about the centurion?
- How did the centurion show that he trusted Jesus?

### So what?

- How does knowing that Jesus has power help you to trust him?
- Can you think of one part of your life where you find it hard to trust Jesus?

### Extra Stretch

- Jesus was able to make a sick person better – doctors and nurses can do that today. What was different about Jesus and what does that tell us about his power?
- From what Jesus says in v10–12, what qualifies a person for being in or out of God's kingdom?

### Pray

Either thank Jesus for what you have learnt about him, or pray for a part of your life where you want to trust Jesus more. Amen