

Today's Suggested Schedule—March 2026, Week 3

Today's Bible Story: Centurion • Matthew 8:5-13

Jesus is powerful.

Key Question: Who is amazing?

Bottom Line: Jesus is amazing.

Memory Verse: *"We have seen amazing things today!"* (Luke 5:26 NLT).

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

Social: Providing time for fun interaction BEFORE Lesson

Jump to the World

- Stuffed animals
- Floor tape

Lesson Activities

Memory Verse Activity- Say it With Me

Bible Story Review- Story Search

Application Activity- Centurion Says

Craft- Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets

- Crayons
- Clear tape
- Permanent marker

Journal and Prayer

Bible Story Summary

Centurion

An important soldier called a centurion goes to Jesus for help because he KNOWS Jesus can make a young man in his house all better. Jesus is ready to go to the young man, but the centurion believes Jesus' power is so great that Jesus doesn't need to come to his house. Jesus is amazed at his faith and says: "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened" (Matthew 8:13 NLT). And right then, the young man was healed. Jesus is SO powerful that all He has to do is speak! Jesus is amazing!

Social -Providing Time for Fun Interaction BEFORE the Lesson

1. Jump to the Word

What You Need:

- Painter's tape
- Plush friends

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Create a line on the floor with tape, about five feet long. Place five to ten plush animals on one side of the tape line.

During the Activity: Invite children to line up behind the plush friends. Ask children to stand over the plush friends, squeeze them in between their ankles/feet, and jump over the line while holding them. Ask the next group of children to take a turn, moving the stuffed friends back to the other side. Continue as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, today we are going to help these plush friends across the line. Watch me to learn how. (*Stand over a plush friend, squeeze it with your ankles, and jump over the line.*) Now you'll get a turn to help move the plush friends to the other side. (*Call several children up to help the plush friend over the tape line.*)"

During the Activity: "Now that we've got our friends ready, when I say go, I want you to squeeze the plush friend just like I did and jump over the line. Ready? Go! (*Pause.*) Hooray! You did it! You got our friends to the other side! Come sit down, and we'll let our other friends have a turn. (*Continue until each child has a turn. Repeat as time and interest allow.*)"

After the Activity: "I loved how you helped the plush friends. You helped get them from one side to the other! In today's Bible Story, we are going to hear how Jesus helped a young man, and Jesus did it just by speaking! Let's go hear all about it!"

EveryChild Pro Tips:

- Allow children to walk, step, or roll instead of jumping.

Lesson Activities

1. Memory Verse Review- Say it With Me

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions.

During the Activity: Say the verse in different voices.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Come over and spread out with me. Let’s say our verse as we do the motions. Ready? ‘We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!’ (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*). Super job, friends!”

During the Activity: “Let’s say the verse in different ways. We’ll start by saying the verse like a robot. (*Pause.*) That was good! Now let’s say the verse as a singer. (*Pause.*) Wow! Now let’s say the verse like a baby. (*Pause.*) This time, let’s say it like a teeny tiny mouse. (*Continue with different voices.*) Great job saying the verse in all the fun voices!”

After the Activity: “The Bible teaches us that Jesus does amazing things like turning water to wine, walking on water, and healing people who are sick. In today’s story, the centurion knew that Jesus could do anything, so he asked Jesus to make the young man better. The centurion knew that Jesus was so powerful that all Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man would be better. And he was because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing. Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

2. Bible Story Review- Story Search

What You Need:

- “Story Search” Activity Page

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Hide the pictures around the room.

During the Activity: Walk around the room together with the children to find the story pictures. Once all the pictures are found, review the story as you put the pictures in order.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Hi, friends! It’s so good to see you today. We heard an amazing story about how powerful Jesus is, and I have a fun way for us to tell the story together.”

During the Activity: “First, we need to find our story cards. Let’s take a walk and look for them. *(Pause.)* Look, there’s a card. Let’s pick it up and take it with us. *(Pause.)* Great, let’s keep walking and looking. *(Pause.)* Oh! We found another one. *(Continue until you’ve collected all the cards.)* Now that we’ve found all the story cards, let’s sit down and put them in order as we tell the story.

“Our first story card has a picture of the centurion. The centurion was a very important soldier and he led of a lot of soldiers. Let’s lay this picture down here; it’s the first part of our story. *(Pause.)*”

“The second story picture is the young man who worked for the centurion. He was sick and had to stay in bed. The centurion knew Jesus could help the young man because Jesus is the Son of God and **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing.** This is the second part of our story. We’ll lay this picture beside the first picture. *(Pause.)*”

“This picture is the centurion talking to Jesus about the sick young man. We’ll add this picture next. *(Pause.)* Jesus said He would go and make him better. But the centurion knew that Jesus was so powerful that all Jesus had to do was speak and the sick man would be all better. Jesus told the centurion to go home because he believed. And the young man was all better!

“See the centurion and the young man who was all better? *(Pause.)* That’s our last picture, and we’ll put it here at the end. *(Pause.)* Wow, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

After the Activity: “All Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better. That is amazing! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

3. Application Activity- Centurion Says

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Line children up on one side of the room and stand across from them.

During the Activity: Call out actions for children to do with “Centurion Says.”

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

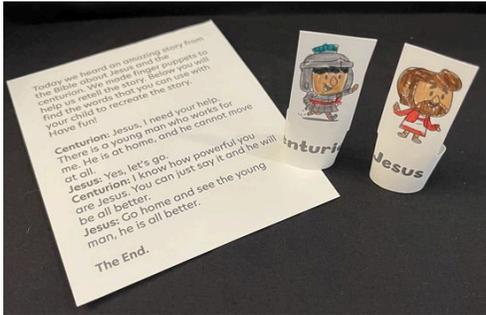
What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come line up over here and let’s play a game.”

During the Activity: “I am going to say, ‘Centurion Says’ and then an action I want you to do. But if say an action without saying the centurion says, then be really still and don’t do it. Let’s practice. Centurion says hop. (*Hop together.*) Great listening. Now clap. (*Pause.*) Uh-oh! The centurion didn’t say clap. Great practicing! Now let’s play! Centurion says ... [clap, jump, touch head, twirl, sit down, stand up, and a mix of commands that don’t start with ‘Centurion Says.’]. That was so fun.”

After the Activity: “In today’s Bible Story, we learned that the Centurion was a very powerful soldier, but He needed Jesus to help him. Jesus helped the young man who worked for the Centurion and made him all better just by speaking. Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

4. Craft- Centurion and Jesus Finger Puppets



What You Need:

- “Jesus Puppet” Activity Page
- “Centurion Puppet” Activity Page
- “Fun at Home Note” Activity Page
- Crayons
- Clear tape
- Resealable plastic sandwich-sized bags
- Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child’s name on their bag.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their puppets, then help children fold and tape the tabs of each puppet together. Ask children to slide their Jesus puppet on a finger of one hand and the centurion puppet on a finger of another hand, and re-enact the story. Once finished re-enacting the story, put the puppets and a “Fun at Home Note” in each child’s bag.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come to the table and let’s make our own story puppets to help review today’s true story from the Bible!”

During the Activity: “Everyone has a Jesus puppet and a centurion puppet to color. *(Pause.)* Now that you’ve colored them, we can fold them and tape the sides together. *(Help children as needed.)* Okay, slide one puppet on a finger on one hand and the other puppet on a finger on the other hand. *(Pause.)* Great.

“Our story starts when the centurion, everyone hold up your centurion puppet, walked up to Jesus. Hold up your Jesus puppet. *(Pause.)* The centurion asked Jesus for His help. The centurion said, ‘There is a young man who works for me. He is at home, and he cannot move at all. He’s in a lot of pain.’ Jesus loved helping people, so He was ready to go help the young man. But the centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it, and the young man would be all better. And that’s what Jesus did! Jesus told the centurion to go back home, and the young man would be all better; and he was! Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** Thank you for helping me tell the story with your puppets today. Let’s put your puppets and this card in your bag, then close it up.”

After the Activity: “Jesus didn’t have to go to the young man who was sick. He didn’t have to give him bandages or medicine. He didn’t even have to be right next to him! All Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**”

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- Journal or white board
- Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Encourage the children to march like soldiers as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of amazing things.

After the Activity: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “It’s Small Group time! Today, we’ll pretend we are soldiers like the centurion and march to our Small Group spot. March like this and follow me! (*March as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

“Halt! (*Stop suddenly.*) Halt means stop. We’re here! Let’s sit down and talk about today’s Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

During the Activity: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) “In our Bible Story, we heard how powerful Jesus is! The centurion knew that Jesus could do amazing things because Jesus is God’s Son. So the centurion asked Jesus to help a young man who works for him. The young man is at home, and he cannot move. The centurion knew how powerful Jesus was, and he knew that Jesus could just say it, and the young man would be all better. And that’s what Jesus did! Jesus told the centurion to go back home, and the young man would be all better; and he was! Wow! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** That’s why when I ask you, ‘**Who is amazing?**’ you can say, **[Bottom Line] ‘Jesus is amazing!’** Ready? **Who is amazing? [Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!**

“The Bible verse we’re learning says: ‘We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!’ (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*). Let’s say that together! Just stand up and say what I say and do what I do! ‘We have seen (*point to self*) amazing things today!’ (*Hands like binoculars, open and shut.*) Luke 5:26 (*open hands like a book*).

“Way to go! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Today, we’ll make a list of powerful things Jesus can do. We know that Jesus can do amazing things because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is amazing!** It can be when Jesus turned water to wine, or when Jesus calmed the storm. Whatever you think is powerful, tell me when I say your name, and I’ll write it in our journal. (*Say each child’s name and write down what they say beside their names in the journal. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

After the Activity: “Thanks for helping me make this list. (*Hold up the journal for the children to see.*) These are really powerful things! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our AMAZING friend forever. Jesus really is amazing, He can do things no one else can! Our list is full of powerful things Jesus can do! (*Read the list you made with the children.*) We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”