



**August's B.i.G. Idea**

We believe that God wants us to help others.

**August's Bible Verse**

*Children, you show love for others by truly helping them.* 1 John 3:18, CEV

**August's B.i.G. Theme**

We Can Help Others

## Lesson 11 ★ The Centurion's Servant

### Today's Bible Story

Luke 7:1-10

### Three B.i.G. (Believe in God) Truths

- ★ God is a great big God.
- ★ God loves us with a great big love.
- ★ We are part of God's great big world.

### Objectives

- ★ Children will hear the Bible story about the centurion who asked Jesus to heal his servant.
- ★ Children will realize that we can help others by asking for God's help and having faith.

In today's Bible story the two main characters—a Roman centurion and Jesus—never meet face to face, yet they have a tremendous impact on each other. This is a story of deep trust and faith. The centurion, an official in charge of one hundred men, lived in Capernaum, a place visited frequently by Jesus. But remember—the centurion was not a Jewish man. He was a Roman, a Gentile. The Jews distrusted Gentiles and worked hard to disassociate themselves from them. And because the Jews were the unwilling subjects of the Roman Empire, they resented the presence of Roman soldiers in their communities. Yet, this centurion was well respected by the Jewish elders. He seemed to respect them as well, since he had built a synagogue for them.

The centurion had a sick servant and was worried about him. Knowing that Jesus had

the ability to heal the sick, he went to the Jewish elders and asked them to speak to Jesus on his behalf. He did not believe that he was worthy to speak to Jesus on his own.

At the elders' request, Jesus decided to go to the centurion's house. Before he arrived, Jesus was stopped by some of the centurion's friends. The centurion probably expected that Jesus, a Jew, would consider a Gentile's home unclean. He respected this custom, and thus stopped Jesus before he actually entered his home.

The friends had a message for Jesus: The centurion believed that all Jesus needed to do was to say the word, and the servant would be healed. The centurion knew that just as he commanded one hundred men who obeyed him, whatever Jesus commanded would also be obeyed.

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith. He spoke the word, and the servant was healed. The centurion and Jesus never spoke face to face, and yet they were each touched by the other. Jesus was blessed by the centurion's trust, and the centurion's servant was restored.

Just as the Jewish elders and the centurion's friends intervened on the centurion's behalf, we have the privilege of offering prayers of intercession for the children in our care. When you notice a child having a difficult day, offer a silent, one-sentence prayer for the child. If possible, place a hand on the child's shoulder as you pray. You may find that this will calm the child and help you to feel more at peace as well.

## Invite them in ... (15 minutes)

Welcome!	✓
Meet a Centurion	✓
Centurion's Helmet	
Commander of 100	
Build a Synagogue	✓

## ... Into the Bible (30 minutes)

Transition Time	✓
Hear the Bible Story	✓
"The Centurion Says" Game	✓
Helping Hands Snack	

## ... Into Life (15 minutes)

Backyard Time	✓
Helping Around the World	
Praise Time	✓
Closing Worship	✓



**TimeSaver**  
Activities that require little or no planning and only basic supplies.



**EcoFriendly**  
Activities that encourage responsible earth stewardship by providing options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

## DVD Summary: Backyard Time

*The Backyard kids say the Bible verse before Mr. Z tells the Bible story about an army officer who asked Jesus for his help for a sick friend. Then the children begin assembling care packages for children in other countries. From toothbrushes to notebooks to bags of lentils, each child contributes something that can be used by someone in need. Your children will remember that when they need help, they can ask God for help. Mr. Z challenges your children to think of ways they can help someone who needs their help.*



## The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God  
wants us to help others.

Choose one or more activities to introduce your children to the Bible story.

### Welcome!

**Supplies:** Stickers, Attendance Chart, Leader—inside front cover, DVD, DVD player, television

- Do** ★ Welcome the children as they arrive. Give each child a Roman soldier **Sticker** to place on the **Attendance Chart**.
- ★ **Say:** This is a Roman soldier called a centurion. Today's Bible story is about a centurion who showed love for others by helping them.
  - ★ **Ask:** Do you remember our Bible verse? It says: "Children, you show love for others by truly helping them" (1 John 3:18, CEV).
  - ★ Remind the children how to sign the Bible verse (**DVD; Leader—inside front cover**).

**Live B.i.G.** God wants us to help others.

### Meet a Centurion

**Supplies:** Leader—page 117, crayons

#### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy "The Centurion" (**Leader—page 117**) for each child.

- Do** ★ Give each child "The Centurion" (**Leader—page 117**).
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is about a Roman soldier called a centurion. The centurion was a man of authority and power.
  - ★ **Say:** The decoration on top of the centurion's helmet is called a plume. Let's color the plume red.
  - ★ Let the children color the rest of the centurion's clothes and shield.
  - ★ **Say:** There is a centurion in today's Bible story. He asked Jesus to help his servant get well. We will hear what happened.

**Live B.i.G.** We can ask God to help others.

### Centurion's Helmet

**Supplies:** Kids' Book, Stickers

**For Cardboard Helmet:** construction paper, scissors, crayons or markers, tape

**For Plastic Helmet:** DVD, empty plastic gallon milk jugs (clean), utility knife, aluminum foil, paintbrushes

Invite them in . . .

## Prepare

### For Cardboard Helmet

- ★ Punch out a centurion's helmet plume (**Kids' Book**) for each child. Cut off the long tab.
- ★ Cut two four-by-eleven-inch construction paper strips for each child.

### For Plastic Helmet

- ★ Punch out a centurion's helmet plume (**Kids' Book**) for each child—including the long tab.
- ★ Watch the August 14 Demonstration (**DVD**).
- ★ Cut away the top and handle of a plastic milk jug for each child.
- ★ Cut a small slit on the bottom of the milk container (which will actually be the top of the helmet). The slit should be the width of the tab on the plume (**Kids' Book**).
- ★ Cover each milk jug helmet with aluminum foil.

*Note: Be aware that you have to do most of the work for children ahead of time to create the plastic helmet.*



## Do For Cardboard Helmet

- ★ Give each child two construction paper strips to decorate with crayons or markers.
- ★ Give each child a centurion's helmet plume (**Kids' Book**).
- ★ Help each child tape one headband strip to each side of the plume.
- ★ Wrap the strips around the child's head and tape the ends to each side of the remaining end of the plume.

### For Plastic Helmet

- ★ Give each child a helmet plume (**Kids' Book**).
- ★ Help the child insert the plume's tab into the slit on the helmet.

**Live B.i.G.** The centurion was a kind, generous, helpful person.

## Commander of 100

**Supplies:** 100 large buttons, large beads, or other counting item

- Do**
- ★ **Say:** The centurion was a leader in the army. He was in charge of 100 soldiers.
  - ★ Encourage the children to count the items you have provided to get a sense of 100.
  - ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is about a centurion who asked Jesus for help. He asked Jesus to help his servant get well.

**Live B.i.G.** We can ask God to help others.

## Build a Synagogue

**Supplies:** interlocking blocks or wood blocks

- Do**
- ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is about a centurion who was kind and helpful. One helpful thing he did was to build a synagogue (like our church building) where the Jews could gather to worship God and hear the stories of God's people.
  - ★ Invite the children to use interlocking blocks or wood blocks to build a synagogue.

**Live B.i.G.** The centurion did helpful things for others. God wants us to help others.



## The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God wants us to help others.

Choose one or more activities to immerse your children in the Bible story.

### Transition Time

- Do**
- ★ Have the children stand in a circle.
  - ★ **Say:** Let's sing a happy song and clap our hands.
  - ★ Teach the song "Oh, You Show Love for Others" to the tune of "The More We Get Together."
  - ★ Have the children clap their hands as you sing.

#### Oh, You Show Love for Others

Oh, you show love for others,  
for others, for others.

Oh, you show love for others  
by truly helping them.

By helping, by helping,  
by helping, by helping.

Oh, you show love for others  
by truly helping them.

- ★ Sing the song again and have the children stomp their feet.
- ★ Have the children sit down to hear the Bible story.

**Live B.i.G.** We believe that God wants us to help others.

### Hear the Bible Story

**Supplies:** Bible, Leader—page 116, helmets made earlier (page 110)

- Do**
- ★ Open your Bible to Luke 7.
  - ★ **Say:** Our Bible story today is found in the New Testament, in the Gospel of Luke.
  - ★ Have the children stand in a circle.
  - ★ Tell the story "A Mighty Soldier" (**Leader—page 116**) and encourage the children to do the suggested motions.
  - ★ **Say:** There were lots of helpers in this story! Can you name some of those helpers? (*The centurion helped the Jewish people; the centurion helped his sick servant; the Jewish leaders helped the centurion by going to Jesus; the friends helped the centurion by bringing a message to Jesus; Jesus helped the servant by healing him.*)
  - ★ **Say:** There are so many ways we can help others, just like the people in the story. When we help others, we are showing God's love to them.

**Live B.i.G.** Helping someone is one of the best ways to show God's love.

## “The Centurion Says” Game

**Supplies:** DVD, Leader—inside front cover

- Do** ★ **Say:** The centurion was an important man. He knew that when he told someone to “come,” “go,” or “do this,” that person would obey. So he trusted that whatever Jesus commanded would happen too.
- ★ Invite the children to play a game similar to “Simon Says,” called “The Centurion Says.”
  - ★ Say an action and do it. For example, you might say, “The centurion says touch your nose,” and the children should respond by touching their noses. But if the leader simply says, “Touch your nose,” the children should not touch their noses.
  - ★ One difference in this game, though, is that a child is not eliminated from the game if he or she makes a mistake.
  - ★ End the game by saying, “The centurion says sign the Bible verse.”
  - ★ Then sign the Bible verse with your children once again.
  - ★ **Say:** The centurion asked Jesus for help to make his servant well.

**Live B.i.G.** We believe that God wants us to help others.

## Helping Hands Snack

**Supplies:** plastic tub, water, dish soap, work gloves or rubber gloves, sponges, paper towels, cheese slices, crackers, napkins

### Prepare

- ★ Partially fill a plastic tub with soap and water.

*Check for allergies before serving this snack.*



- Do** ★ **Say:** The centurion in our Bible story was a kind and generous man who helped other people. Today, I need your help. Our snack table needs to be cleaned before we can eat our snack. I need your helping hands.
- ★ Have the children wear work gloves or rubber gloves.
  - ★ Show the children how to dip sponges into the soapy water and then squeeze the sponges over the tub to get out the excess water.
  - ★ Have the children wipe the table with the soapy sponges.
  - ★ Pour out the soapy water and then refill the tub with plain water.
  - ★ Let the children rinse off the table.
  - ★ Finally, have the children dry the table with paper towels.
  - ★ **Say:** Thank you! I really needed your helping hands to make our table clean and ready for our snack.
  - ★ Have the children wash their hands before eating.
  - ★ Enjoy a simple snack of cheese and crackers with the children.
  - ★ Say a thank-you prayer.

**Live B.i.G.** We have helping hands!



## The B.i.G. Idea

We believe that God  
wants us to help others.

Choose one or more activities to connect your children's lives to the Bible story.

### Backyard Time

**Supplies:** DVD, Leader—page 141, DVD player, television, crayons

#### Prepare

- ★ Photocopy "Help Mr. Z Pack Care Boxes" (**Leader—page 141**) for each child.

- Do** ★ **Say:** Mr. Z and the children in the backyard have come up with a way to help others. Let's see how they are showing God's love by being helpers.
- ★ Watch Backyard Time (**DVD**).
  - ★ **Say:** The backyard kids were really organized today, weren't they? Everyone worked together to assemble the care packages.
  - ★ **Ask:** What supplies were the kids putting into the care packages? (*toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, notebooks, pencils, bags of lentils, puppets, Bibles*) Why would children need those particular supplies?
  - ★ Give each child "Help Mr. Z Pack Care Boxes" (**Leader—page 141**).
  - ★ Have each child circle the things he or she would choose to put in the box.
  - ★ Read the Bible verse printed on the page to the children.
  - ★ Can the children sign the Bible verse with you?

**Live B.i.G.** We can work together to help others, even people we may never see.

### Helping Around the World

**Supplies:** magazine pictures of children from around the world, scissors, construction paper, gluesticks, a clothesline, clip clothespins

#### Prepare

- ★ Cut out magazine pictures of children from around the world.
- ★ Mount each picture on a sheet of construction paper.
- ★ Stretch a clothesline near the storytelling area at a height the children can reach.

- Do** ★ **Ask:** Did you see the clothesline in the backyard today? What kind of pictures were hung on the clothesline? (*pictures of children from around the world*)

- ★ **Say:** Let's create a photo clothesline like the one on the **DVD**.
- ★ Give the children an assortment of magazine pictures of children from around the world. Invite each child to select a picture and attach it to the clothesline with a clip clothespin.
- ★ As the children work, talk with them about where each of the children pictured might live and what needs they may have.

**Live B.i.G.** We can work together to help others, even people we may never see.

## Praise Time

**Supplies:** DVD, DVD player, television, work gloves or rubber gloves

- Do**
- ★ Give each child a pair of work gloves or rubber gloves to wear.
  - ★ **Say:** Why would people wear gloves like these? That's right—to work! I can see that you have helping hands. That means we are ready to sing our Praise Time song!
  - ★ Play "I've Got Helping Hands" (**DVD**). Encourage the children to sing and clap with the music.
  - ★ **Ask:** What were some of the ways the kids in the backyard were helping as they sang?

**Live B.i.G.** Celebrate and use the helping hands God has given to you!

## Closing Worship

**Supplies:** Stickers, Kids' Book, Leader—page 116

### Prepare

- ★ Detach a storybook (**Kids' Book**) for each child (instructions, page 144).
- ★ Photocopy "A Mighty Soldier" (**Leader—page 116**) for each child to take home.

- Do**
- ★ **Say:** Today we heard about a centurion who asked Jesus to help his servant get well. We can ask God to help our family and friends. Let's do that right now.
  - ★ **Pray:** Dear God, please help our family and friends be safe and well. Amen.
  - ★ Give each child a "Take Time to Help Others" worship badge (**Stickers**).
  - ★ Give each child a storybook (**Kids' Book**) and "A Mighty Soldier" (**Leader—page 116**) to take home.

**Live B.i.G.** We can ask God to help others.



# A Mighty Soldier

In Jesus' day there were many, many soldiers. Some of the soldiers were in charge of 100 men. These soldiers were called centurions.

I am a mighty soldier;  
*(Hold arms to show muscles.)*  
 I rule 100 men.  
*(Put fist of one hand on opposite shoulder.)*  
 I tell them when to march away  
*(March in place.)*  
 And come back home again.  
*(March in place.)*

One of these centurions lived in the town of Capernaum. He was not Jewish like Jesus, but he was kind to the Jewish people. He built a synagogue so that the people would have a place to worship and pray.

I am a mighty soldier;  
*(Hold arms to show muscles.)*  
 I rule 100 men.  
*(Put fist of one hand on opposite shoulder.)*  
 I tell them when to march away  
*(March in place.)*  
 And come back home again.  
*(March in place.)*

One of the centurion's servants got sick. The centurion knew that Jesus could make people well. Because Jesus was Jewish, the centurion asked the Jewish leaders to go to Jesus for help. They did!

I am a mighty soldier;  
*(Hold arms to show muscles.)*  
 I rule 100 men.  
*(Put fist of one hand on opposite shoulder.)*  
 I tell them when to march away  
*(March in place.)*  
 And come back home again.  
*(March in place.)*

Jesus had the Jewish leaders take him to the centurion's house. But before Jesus could go inside the house, some people stopped Jesus. They were friends of the centurion.

I am a mighty soldier;  
*(Hold arms to show muscles.)*  
 I rule 100 men.  
*(Put fist of one hand on opposite shoulder.)*  
 I tell them when to march away  
*(March in place.)*  
 And come back home again.  
*(March in place.)*

The friends said, "Jesus, we have a message for you. The centurion says you do not even have to come inside his house. He says: 'You do not have to touch my servant to make him well. If you will just say the words, I know my servant will be made well.'"

Jesus said, "This man has deep faith! He has never seen me or met me or talked to me, but he trusts me to do what I say I will do. He trusts me to make his servant well."

Jesus did make the servant well! And Jesus was very thankful for the centurion, who had such great faith.

I am a mighty soldier;  
*(Hold arms to show muscles.)*  
 I rule 100 men.  
*(Put fist of one hand on opposite shoulder.)*  
 I tell them when to march away  
*(March in place.)*  
 And come back home again.  
*(March in place.)*

*based on Luke 7:1-10*

# The Centurion

