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Unexpected Faith

Key References: Luke 7:1-10; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 32, pp. 315-320; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 177-179; Our Beliefs, nos. 17, 11, 22.















power**text**

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

power**point**

As our faith develops, so does our ability to serve.

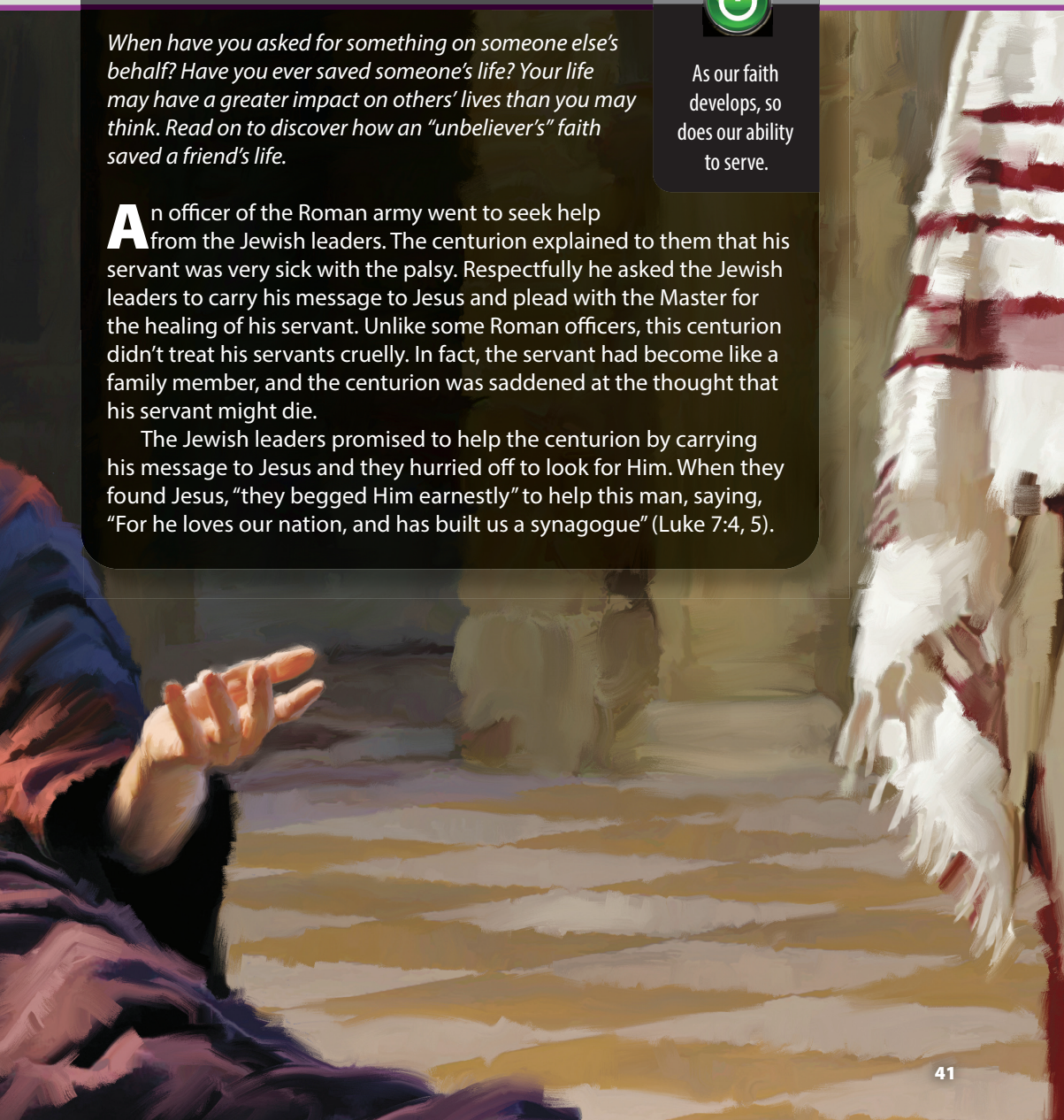
When have you asked for something on someone else's behalf? Have you ever saved someone's life? Your life may have a greater impact on others' lives than you may think. Read on to discover how an "unbeliever's" faith saved a friend's life.

An officer of the Roman army went to seek help from the Jewish leaders. The centurion explained to them that his servant was very sick with the palsy. Respectfully he asked the Jewish leaders to carry his message to Jesus and plead with the Master for the healing of his servant. Unlike some Roman officers, this centurion didn't treat his servants cruelly. In fact, the servant had become like a family member, and the centurion was saddened at the thought that his servant might die.

The Jewish leaders promised to help the centurion by carrying his message to Jesus and they hurried off to look for Him. When they found Jesus, "they begged Him earnestly" to help this man, saying, "For he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue" (Luke 7:4, 5).

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 46.



5

Sunday

READ Read Luke 7:1-4 and this week's lesson, "Unexpected Faith."

REVIEW Review the power text, Hebrews 12:2.

THINK What is the most important point of this story?

PRAY Ask God to teach you something from this week's lesson that will help you to trust Him wholeheartedly.

Monday

READ Read Luke 7:5-10.

THINK Why did Jesus go immediately to the centurion's home?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, discuss your answer.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to increase your faith in Him.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 7:9.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write what Jesus' words mean to you: "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help your faith grow stronger so He can use you more and more.

Right away Jesus' heart was touched. Whenever He heard that someone was sick or in need, His automatic response was to help. Unlike the Jews, He didn't want to help the man because of who he was or what he had done. He wanted to help, not because the man deserved help, but because the man recognized his need for help.

Immediately Jesus set out for the officer's home. Slowly He made His way on foot through the dense crowd. But Jesus hadn't gotten very far when the Roman officer's message came to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You" (verses 6, 7).

You see, this man had been watching and listening to Jesus for a long time. He had heard time and again stories of Jesus' healing power and love. He recognized in Jesus something that even the Jews had failed to see. The centurion found in Jesus' teaching the answer that could satisfy the deepest needs of his soul.

He knew that Jesus was no ordinary man, and he didn't even feel worthy of a visit from Him. Nevertheless, the centurion's humble message didn't stop Jesus. He just kept on going, heading straight for the officer's house. Jesus had one purpose in mind—to bless others through His unconditional and loving service. Wherever He went, He brought life, healing, and joy, and today





Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 8:14, 15.

LOOK Look through the Bible and find five other miracles of healing that Jesus performed.

THINK The Jewish leaders who brought the centurion's request to Jesus suggested that He should heal the centurion's servant because the centurion was a good man who deserved this favor. In the five examples of healing you have listed above, did Jesus perform miracles of healing only for those who deserved to be healed?

APPLY Do some acts of service to bless others today.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the ability He has given you to serve and bless others.

Thursday

READ Read Mark 1:40-44.

CHOOSE Select one of the following four hymns from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*: 333, 642, 643, 644.

CREATE Draw or paint your own illustration of the hymn you selected. Illustrate the importance of service in the message of healing we can share with others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you opportunities to share with others the great things Jesus has done in your life.

Friday

READ Read Mark 10:46-52.

ACT Act out the Bible story with your family for worship tonight.

THINK How have slaves been treated throughout history?

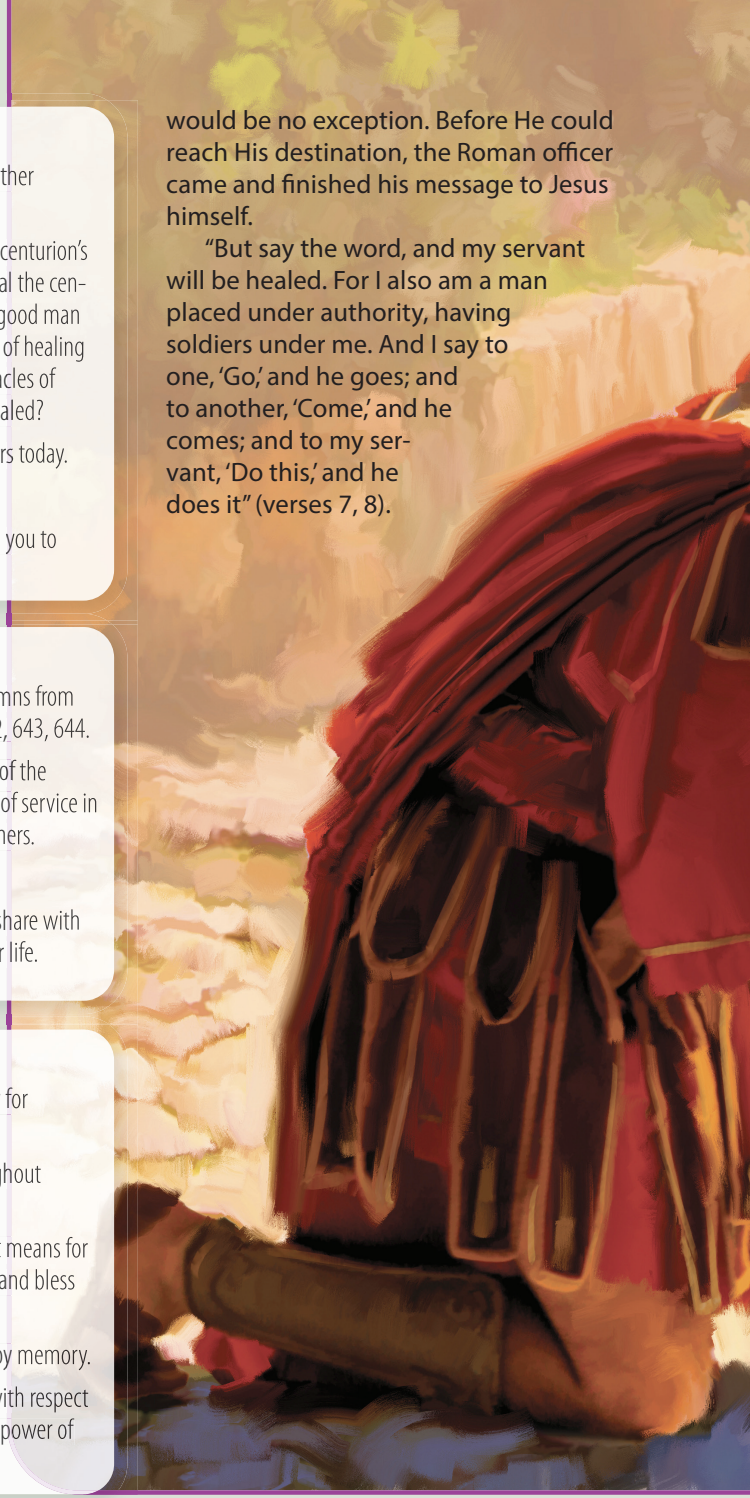
DISCUSS Talk with your family about what it means for people to be slaves to sin. How can we serve and bless people who are still slaves to sin?

SAY Repeat the power text, Hebrews 12:2, by memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you treat all people with respect and dignity, and to help you be free from the power of sin in your life.

would be no exception. Before He could reach His destination, the Roman officer came and finished his message to Jesus himself.

"But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it" (verses 7, 8).





When Jesus heard the centurion's words, He was amazed. Turning to the crowd, He said, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" (verse 9).

When the Roman soldier returned home, he found that, just as Jesus had promised, his servant was indeed healed, completely well, and ready to continue his work.

There must have been many shouts of joy at the centurion's house that day. Because of that Roman officer's faith, his servant was blessed with the healing touch of Jesus. Over and over through the years, as long as this story is told, people will learn of the blessings available to each one who comes to Jesus with simple faith, believing in His power to restore human lives.

Just as Jesus honored the faith of the centurion and healed his servant, God will honor our faith in Him.

We each have received a measure of faith through the Holy Spirit's working in our lives. It is a privilege to use our faith as the centurion did to connect people with Jesus, the true source of healing and restoration.

Can you imagine the difference we can make in the lives of others if we place our faith in Jesus as the centurion did?

PUZZLE
5

OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS

Instructions: Consider the following Bible verse:
"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6, 7).

Can you find 20 or more words that have six letters or more made from the word "thanksgiving"? Use a letter only as many times as it appears in "thanksgiving."

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
4. _____	5. _____	6. _____
7. _____	8. _____	9. _____
10. _____	11. _____	12. _____
13. _____	14. _____	15. _____
16. _____	17. _____	18. _____