

5

Unexpected Faith

SERVICE
Like Jesus, we love and serve others unconditionally.

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).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 7:1-10
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 32, pp. 315-320
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 177-179
- Student lesson on page 62 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that faith in Jesus is central to our identity as Christians and our mission of service.
- **Feel** a desire for a deeper faith in Jesus that will lead to more and greater service for Him.
- **Respond** by being more intentional in asking for the gift of faith and in seeking ways to serve.

POWERPOINT

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

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A centurion sends elders from the Jewish community to ask Jesus to heal his servant. He deserves this special favor, the elders tell Jesus, because he is good to the Jewish nation. But before Jesus gets to the centurion's home, word comes through his friends that the centurion does not feel worthy of Jesus' attention, but that he has faith that Jesus can just speak a word and heal the servant. Jesus does heal the servant without even seeing him, and uses the incident to show the faith we all need to have.

This is a lesson about service.

In a community of believers our faith in Jesus grows, and we are equipped and compelled to share our faith in loving acts of service and blessing to others.

Teacher Enrichment

Qualities of the centurion that led Jesus to exclaim: "I tell you I have not found such faith even in Israel."

1. The fact that he was a centurion meant that he was no ordinary man. He was the equivalent of a regimental sergeant-major—the backbone of the Roman army.

2. His attitude to his slave was unusual. According to the Roman law, the slave was defined as a living tool without rights, often abused by his master.

3. He was evidently a deeply religious man. He contributed to the building of a synagogue for the Jews.

4. He showed an unusual attitude to the Jews. The Romans referred to the Jews as a filthy race and spoke of Judaism as a barbarous superstition.

5. He was a man of faith. He related his faith to his own experience—that Christ could give the order and it would be fulfilled. His was the perfect confidence that looks up and says, "Lord, I know You can do this" (adapted from William Barclay, *The Gospel of Luke* [Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975], pp. 84-86).

What am I known for by others outside my church? How am I a person of faith?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Faith/Service Survey* *B. Trust Fall*	Bibles, paper, pencils, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk Bibles
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 57. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, glove
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	health professional guest Bibles, paper, pencils Bibles, paper, pencils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Intentional Development*	index cards, pencils
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Faith/Service Survey

Invite several adult volunteers to your Sabbath School class. As students arrive, give them paper and pencil and have them ask the adult volunteers who are participating in junior Sabbath School the following question, noting their answers on the paper: **What relationship do you think there is between "faith" and "service"?**

Debriefing

Have the students take turns giving responses from their list and create a master list where all can see. Guide the discussion toward an awareness that as we grow in our relationship with God and in our relationship with other Christians in our faith community, we become more interested in serving and blessing others and giving them an opportunity to join us in those relationships. Say: **Let's say together the first part of our power text, Hebrews 12:2:**

"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).

Our power point reminds us that:

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

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Trust Fall

Divide the students into groups of five or six. Say: **We are going to do what is known as a "trust fall." It's all a matter of trusting the others in your group. One student will stand with their back to the others and fall backward, without bending their knees. The rest stand behind ready to catch and support the one that's falling.** If possible, have each one take a turn.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to free-fall back into the group? How were you able to trust the others to catch you? How did it feel to be there to catch the one that was falling backward? How did it feel knowing they were trusting you to catch them?**

Why would you recommend to someone else to trust your group as you did? (It would depend on the type of experience you had, whether you had faith in them or not.) **If someone else needed a safe place to fall, how would you lead them to your group, to your God?** (Encourage students to realize that when we have faith in God and in our community of believers, we can serve others by leading them, in turn, to have faith as well.)

Say: **Let's say together the first part of our power text, Hebrews 12:2:**

"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).

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Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 100)
"You Are My Hiding Place" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 96)
"Give Me Oil in My Lamp" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 139)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION), or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ glove

Point out that anything we do or say to share God with others is an offering to God. Sometimes the most appropriate kind of offering is money; at other times it is some other act of kindness or service.

Prayer

Ask God for the gift of faith, so He can use us more and more.

Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ health professional guest

Introducing the Bible Story

Invite a church member who works as a nurse, physician, dentist, or some other medical professional to meet with your Sabbath School class. Say: **Our Bible story is about Jesus healing someone. Today we have _____ here with us to talk to us about their experience in the medical field.** Interview them with the following questions:

1. Why did you decide to work in your chosen profession?
2. What do you believe your profession has to do with "faith" and with "service"?
3. What opportunities to tell others about Jesus has your work provided?
4. If you have ever witnessed a miracle in your work, describe it.
5. What scriptural story or passage means the most to you in your work?

Allow students to ask other appropriate questions, preferably regarding aspects of faith and service.

Let's repeat together our power point:

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

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ paper

Experiencing the Story

Have the class read aloud together Luke 7:1-10. Then say: **Team up with another person. Imagine that one of you is a friend that the centurion sends out to Jesus, while the other is a local TV news anchorperson. Those of you who are the friend, when you return, you find the boy well. As word spreads of the miracle, you find yourself being interviewed by the local TV news anchorperson. Put together a short script of the interview and the interviewee's reactions.** Allow students to share.

Ask: **How must it have felt to see the faith of the centurion used by Jesus for such a miracle? How is the faith of the centurion like or unlike your own faith? How deep do you want your faith to be? What impact/influence does your life have on others?**

The power point reminds us that:

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Accommodations for students with special needs:
Have students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity work with a partner who could assist them.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Exploring the Bible

Divide the students into pairs or small groups. Say: **Please look at Hebrews 11 to discover what faith is capable of doing. Make a list of what you find.** Allow groups time to read the chapter and compile their list.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you find out faith can do? How do you think these people's experiences strengthened their faith? How were they then able to serve God more effectively?** Say: **Let's repeat once again the first part of our power text, Hebrews 12:2:**

"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).

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Scenario

Read the following scenario to your students.

Ayana says she wants to serve Jesus. She always hears how important it is to serve God by serving others, and she wants to do what's "right." But she admits to you that she doesn't really trust God, that her faith in Jesus is really weak right now. She doesn't even think that she knows Him herself, but feels it her "duty" to be involved in Christian service. She just doesn't have a lot of motivation to serve, either. She thinks there may be some connection there. She wants your advice and help.

Debriefing

Ask: **What is Ayana missing that affects her desire and motivation to serve?** (her own relationship and trust in God; perhaps also a caring, committed relationship with other believers) **How could you help her? What personal experience might you share with her? Think of ways you could explain to her that**

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4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ index cards
- ☐ pencils

Intentional Development

Allow time for students to share with the class if they had the opportunity during the past week to do an act of kindness. Ask: **What did you do to serve someone in need? What was the response or reaction of the person whom you helped? Did he/she feel blessed by your service?**

Say: **Think for a moment about your faith in Jesus and your desire to serve. How can you be more intentional in developing your own faith and then in seeking ways to share it by serving others?** (If students lack ideas, suggest things such as Bible study, prayer, active involvement in church activities, relationship with fellow Christians.) **Write down at least three ways.**

Debriefing

Ask: **Who is willing to share what they wrote? What place does prayer hold in developing your faith? Because of your faith, how can you see someone else's life being touched by Jesus? The power point reminds us that:**

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

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Jesus, we want to have the faith of the Roman official You met long ago. Please give us opportunities for our faith to grow so we can do greater things for You. Amen.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **A non-Jewish woman asks Jesus to heal her daughter. Everyone has access to God's blessings.**

Notes

Student lesson

Unexpected Faith

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).

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 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?

KEY REFERENCES

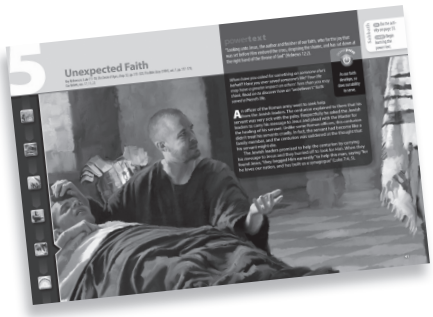
- Luke 7:1-10
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 32, pp. 315-320
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 177-179
- Our Beliefs, nos. 17, 11, 22

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.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 46.

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 tell you, I have not found such great faith 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.

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.