

LESSON PLAN

JESUS HEALS NOBLEMAN'S SON; SPEAKS AT NAZARETH

Luke 4:16-30; John 4:46-54

Lesson Memory Verse: John 4:50 - "Jesus said to him, Go your way; your son lives. And **the man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him**, and he went his way." (Grades 1-2 memorize the portion in bold.)

Lesson Aim: Teach the children to believe Jesus' promise to answer their unselfish prayers and to trust Him fully while they are waiting for His answer to their prayer.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Begin the lesson by telling this story:

Mr. McNeill was a pastor of a church that owed a lot of money. It seemed almost impossible to pay it all, but the church prayed that God would send them the money. One day a stranger stopped at the church and talked with Mr. McNeill. He said, "I understand that your church has a large debt that you are anxious to pay. I have heard a lot of good things about your work and I want to help." Then laying a blank check on Mr. McNeill's desk he said, "Fill in the amount you need to pay off your debt and I will return later to sign it." Then he was gone. Mr. McNeill sat looking at the check for awhile and thought to himself, "Surely he does not realize that our debt is so large. He would never give that much. I do not think he will sign a check, if it is made out for the full amount. He told me to make it out for the full amount, but I will just make it out for half the debt."

After a while the stranger returned and with hardly even looking at the check, he signed it. When he did, Mr. McNeill recognized his name as a well-known multimillionaire. He could easily have paid the full amount, but Mr. McNeill did not have enough faith to fill out the check for that amount.

If you do not trust God for all that you need, He will not give you all that you need. But He is pleased to give you all that you need when you fully believe that He will do it.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells about a man who believed Jesus could heal his son that was about to die. He asked Jesus to come to his house and heal him, but Jesus did not go to the man's house. Instead He answered his prayer request at that very moment. Jesus said, "Go your way (go home); your son lives." When the man heard this, he believed what Jesus said and returned to his home to find his son was healed. Why did Jesus do it? He knew this man had faith in Him. Our verse says, "The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken to him and he went his way." If we believe that Jesus is God, we know He can do great things. So we can ask Him for the things that we need to do His work and, if we believe that He will do it, He will answer our prayer. We also can ask Him to do great things for others, if He gets the glory for doing it. We can even pray for our personal needs, but we should never ask for things to satisfy our selfish desires. And when He answers our prayers, we need to thank Him for the thing(s) we received.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our story today you will hear that Jesus answers the prayers of those who believe Him, but He does not answer the prayers of those who do not believe Him.

I. Unbelief in Nazareth - Luke 4:16-30

Jesus grew up in the town of Nazareth which was about fifteen miles from the Sea of Galilee. Up until He was about thirty years old, he worked with His father, Joseph, who was a carpenter. All during this time no one recognized Him as the Messiah that was promised in the Old Testament Scriptures. When He was about thirty years old, He left His home in Nazareth and began the work that God had sent Him to do. He was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist and was proven to be the Son of God when He resisted all the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. Then He returned to the country around the Sea of Galilee, and when He began to teach, many people believed on Him. When Jesus came back to His hometown of Nazareth, He was given the book of Isaiah to read aloud. He turned to Isaiah 61:1-2 and began to read. It said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the

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Lord." After Jesus read this He closed the book and sat down, but all the people looked at Him. Then Jesus said, "This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears." (He meant that Isaiah 61:1-2 was a prophecy about Him and it was being fulfilled as He began His ministry.) When Jesus said this all the people were amazed by what He said and said to each other, "Is not this Joseph's son?" They did not believe He was God's Son, the Messiah that was predicted in Isaiah 61:1-2. Jesus knew what they were thinking and He told them that no prophet is received as a prophet in his own country. Then He told them that there were many widows in Israel when Elijah was a prophet, but he was sent to help a Gentile widow that believed him (1 Kings 17:9); and there were many lepers in Israel when Elisha was a prophet, but he healed Naaman, a Syrian, who believed in him (2 Kings 5:1, 14). When Jesus said these things all the people in the synagogue became angry with Him, because He honored believing Gentiles above unbelieving Jews. They grabbed Jesus and took Him to the edge of a cliff outside the city where they were going to throw Him down and kill Him. But before they did it, He walked away from them and departed into another city. Since the people of Nazareth did not believe Jesus was God's Son as He told them, He could not do many miracles to help them (Mt 13:58).

WE: If we do not believe Jesus can help us, He is not pleased with us. We must believe He is God's Son and He can answer our prayers (Heb 11:6). We must not doubt Him, but trust Him completely to receive answers to our prayers.

II. Belief in Cana - John 4:46-5

Jesus went to the city of Cana where He had turned the water into wine. While He was there, He met a nobleman (a ruler who was very important) who had come from Capernaum to find Him. This man had a son at home who was very sick and was close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he came to Him and asked Him to come to his home in Capernaum so He might heal his son. When Jesus heard this, He said to the nobleman, "Except you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." Jesus was testing this man's faith. Did he have any doubts? Was he testing Him by asking Him do a miracle? Or did he really believe that He could heal his son. The nobleman proved he was sincere when he said, "Come down to my house or my child will die." When Jesus saw the man had genuine faith, He told him, "Go to your home for your son will live." The man believed that Jesus had spoken the truth, so he turned and started for his home in Capernaum. Jesus was very pleased when he did this because it showed that he truly believed that Jesus healed his son.

WE: Do we believe Jesus will answer our prayers? When Jesus says He will answer our prayers, we need to believe Him. If we do, we will not be shamed with disappointment (Romans 10:11). But He says He wants us to abide in His love and let His words abide in us through obedience, and then we can be sure to have answers to our prayers.

III. Healing in Capernaum - John 4:51-54

As the nobleman was part way home, some of his servants met him with the good news. They told him that his son had been healed from his sickness. When the nobleman heard this, he asked the servants when his son had started to get better. They told him that the fever had left the day before at the seventh hour (1 PM). The nobleman remembered that it was at that exact same time when Jesus had said, "Your son lives." This caused the man to believe in Jesus with all his heart. Also, many of the nobleman's family believed in Jesus when they learned about this miracle.

WE: We will have great joy when Jesus answers our prayers. It also will be an encouragement to others to believe Jesus when they pray for some blessing from Him. Jesus can do great things for us, when we put our trust in Him.

BE (for Action): In our story today you heard how Jesus helped those who believed He could do great things for them. Who did not believe in Jesus? Did Jesus help them? Who did believe in Jesus? Did Jesus help him? Jesus wants you to start praying with faith this week; He wants you to trust Him to answer your prayers,

.Let us pray right now and ask God to help you to remember to pray for all the things you need this week and to believe He will answer your prayers. Next week I want you to tell me about God's answers to your prayers during the week.