

Spark Lesson for May 31, 2020
Matthew 8:5-22
(For Preschool and Elementary Kids)

This is a long lesson. We are catching up with Pastor John's sermons to be prepared for when he starts the Family Worship Service on June 6. Feel free to do just part of this lesson or split it between several days.

Pray and praise the Lord you can worship God with your family today.

Name 5 things you can praise Jesus for today.

Sing-My Faith is in You:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkYzk6VGuzI>

The Faith of the Centurion

Play a quick game of Simon Says, but call it Centurion Says. Afterwards say, we are going to learn about how the centurion asked Jesus for help today. He understood Jesus' authority since when the centurion tells his servants to do something, they do it.

Read Matthew 8:5-13 or watch it on the Visual Bible starting at 50:35 minutes and ending at 52:50 minutes:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmK9MvsyfqS>

How would the centurion have authority over his soldiers?

How does Jesus have authority?

What kind of faith does the centurion have?

What kind of faith should we have in Jesus?

What can we do to increase our faith?

Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law

Read Matthew 8:14-17 or watch it on the Visual Bible starting at 52:50 and ending at 54:00

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmK9MvsyfqS>

How did Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law?

How did she respond after she was healed?

How should we respond when God answers our prayers?

The Cost of Following Jesus:

How does a concert pianist become a star? He or she would need a piano and music. He or she would need to practice every day. He or she would need a good piano teacher and take lessons. He or she might have to give up other things to accomplish the goal; maybe playing with friends, watching TV or playing video games. Is there a cost to this? Yes. Is there a cost to following Jesus? Yes. Let's find out what Jesus says:

Read Matthew 8:18-22 or watch it on the Visual Bible starting at 54:00 and ending at 55:19

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmK9MvsyfqS>

This passage sounds really confusing. The teacher of the law was probably a wealthy person who was used to comfort. Jesus was telling him that there was a cost to follow Jesus. Living with Jesus would be

uncomfortable. There would be lots of travel and no luxuries. The disciple wanted to follow Jesus but at a later time. It is thought that the man's father hadn't died yet and so he used it as an excuse to wait and follow Jesus at a later time. Jesus wasn't a priority yet. Just like it takes time and commitment to play the piano well or do well with a sport, it takes commitment to follow Jesus. Sometimes you have to give up good things to get the best things. Following Jesus is the best thing. It can be difficult but there are great rewards.

Play the Price is Right with your kids. (adopted from: <https://www.sundaychildrensfocus.com/cost-of-following-jesus>) Get some objects from around the house and have the kids try to guess how much they cost. You could give them fake money to guess the cost of the object. Then, put a cross on a piece of paper. Ask: How much does it cost to follow Jesus? \$5? \$20? We don't need money to follow Jesus. He paid everything for us. What did he pay for us to follow Him? His life! (Stand up) Jesus said He wants us to give our whole life to Him. Is that hard? Harder than playing the piano? Yes. But if we do it, He will guide us and help us. I am standing here, I am not giving money. I am giving Him my life. Do you want to give your life to Him and follow Him too? Some may think the cost is too high but Jesus loves us and wants us to discover his wonderful life. When we give our whole selves to Jesus, we begin to discover his life, power and love. Following Jesus will cost us everything but it is really worth it.

Pray: Dear God, help us to give our whole lives to you. We know that following Jesus will be hard sometimes but we also know that you will keep us in your love and will help to make our life a wonderful and exciting adventure.

Sing-Do Ya:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MGUrGZ_T2gk

Sing-Jesus Loves Me:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iz1xkYog268>

Craft: The centurion was a soldier and used a shield. Copy and cut out the shield. Decorate it to show you have faith in Jesus.

Color the coloring page.

Additional ideas:

- Read Luke 14:27-30. How does this scripture relate to Matthew 8:18-22? What does it mean to carry your cross daily? Make a cross to remind you to follow Jesus.
- Count the cost to make a fort with sheets or blankets in your living room. What would you need? How would you make it? How would you clean up afterwards? Remind the kids that Jesus wants us to count the cost of following Him. Build your fort and have a family prayer session. Remind your kids that Jesus healed people. Think of people who need to be healed and pray for them.
- The centurion wore armor to help him when he went to battle. We have the Armor of God to help us as we follow Jesus. Younger kids can watch the following short video on the Armor of God: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JzPkPeaWAM> older kids can watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7eC-W_XNyw or read it in Ephesians 6:10-18