ALL STAR

WEEKLY BIBLE STORY: Centurion • Matthew 8:5-13
Jesus is powerful.

MEMORY VERSE: *"We have seen amazing things today!" Luke 5:26 (NLT)*

KEY QUESTION: Who is amazing?

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus is amazing.

OPENING ACTIVITY: Jump to the Word

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Say It with Me

CRAFT: Centurion's Helmet

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Centurion Says

OPENING ACTIVITY | Jump to the Word

SUPPLIES:

- □ Painter's tape
- □ Plush friends

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

***Before the Activity*:**

- Create a line on the floor with tape, about five feet long. Place five to ten plush animals on one side of the tape line.

- "Friends, today we are going to help these plush friends across the line. Watch me to learn how. *(Stand over a plush friend, squeeze it with your ankles, and jump over the line.)* Now you'll get a turn to help move the plush friends to the other side. *(Call several children up to help the plush friend over the tape line.)"*

During the Activity:

- Invite children to line up behind the plush friends. Ask children to stand over the plush friends, squeeze them in between their ankles/feet, and jump over the line while holding them. Ask the next group of children to take a turn, moving the stuffed friends back to the other side. Continue as time and interest allow.

- "Now that we've got our friends ready, when I say go, I want you to squeeze the plush friend just like I did and jump over the line. Ready? Go! *(Pause.)* Hooray! You did it! You got our friends to the other side! Come sit down, and we'll let our other friends have a turn. *(Continue until each child has a turn. Repeat as time and interest allow.)*

After the Activity:

- "I loved how you helped the plush friends. You helped get them from one side to the other! In today's Bible Story, we are going to hear how Jesus helped a young man, and Jesus did it just by speaking! Let's go hear all about it!"

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | Say It with Me

SUPPLIES: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions.

- "Come over and spread out with me. Let's say our verse as we do the motions. Ready? 'We have seen *(point to self)* amazing things today!" *(Hands like binoculars, open and shut.)* Luke 5:26 *(open hands like a book)*. Super job, friends!"

***During the Activity**:*

- Say the verse in different voices.

- "Let's say the verse in different ways. We'll start by saying the verse like a robot. *(Pause.)* That was good! Now let's say the verse as a singer. *(Pause.)* Wow! Now let's say the verse like a baby. *(Pause.)* This time, let's say it like a teeny tiny mouse. *(Continue with different voices.)* Great job saying the verse in all the fun voices!"

***After the Activity**:*

- "The Bible teaches us that Jesus does amazing things like turning water to wine, walking on water, and healing people who are sick. In today's story, the centurion knew that Jesus could do anything, so he asked Jesus to make the young man better. The centurion knew that Jesus was so powerful that all Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man would be better. And he was because ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing. Who is amazing?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing!"**

CRAFT | Centurion's Helmet

SUPPLIES:

- □ "Centurion's Helmet" Activity Page
- □ Cardstock
- □ Sentence strips
- □ Washable markers
- □ Scissors
- □ Glue sticks
- □ Stapler
- □ Clear tape

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Write each child's name on their paper.

- "Today, we heard a great story about a centurion. A centurion is an important leader of a lot of soldiers. Let's make a centurion's helmet to help us review our Bible Story."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to color their helmets. Ask children to glue the top to the sentence strip so the sides of the helmet frame their face when it's on. Measure the sentence strip by wrapping it around each child's head and staple the ends together. Cover the staple back with a piece of tape. Encourage children to wear their helmets while you review the Bible story.

- "Color your helmet. *(Pause.)* Great! Now, glue the helmet to your sentence strip like this. *(Demonstrate.)* I'll measure it to your head and connect the ends. *(Measure, staple, and tape over the staple.)* Now put your helmets on. *(Pause.)*

- "In our story today, we learned about a centurion who needed Jesus' help. He wanted Jesus to help a sick young man who worked for him. He knew Jesus could help because Jesus can do amazing things! The centurion knew that Jesus was powerful, that Jesus only had to speak and the young man would be all better. And that's exactly what happened! Jesus loved the centurion and wanted to help him and the servant."

After the Activity:

- "Jesus is so powerful that all Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better. ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing?"**

BIBLE STORY

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's true story from the Bible is from the book of Matthew, and it begins with a very important soldier called a centurion.

"A centurion was in charge of around 100 other soldiers! If a centurion told his soldiers to go somewhere, then they went exactly where he told them to go. If he told his soldiers to come, then they came to him.

"Let's pretend to be soldiers, and I will be the centurion. If I say, 'Jump!' then what should you do? *(Listen.)* Yes! If I say, 'Jump!' then you should stand up and jump with me. Jump! *(Jump up and down.)*

"And *(hold up your fingers as you count down)* three … two … one … stop! Now, march in place! *(March in place.)*

"Oh, great marching! *(Hold up your fingers as you count down.)* Three … two … one … and stop! Okay, here's the last one: Wiggle your whole body! *(Wiggle your whole body.)*

"Now, let's wiggle all the way down to the floor in *(hold up your fingers as you count down and wiggle down to the floor)* three … two … one … and done!

(Gesture for everyone to sit down if they haven't already.)

"Everybody, have a seat. Great job, soldiers! You listened to your centurion so very well!

"All the centurion had to do was speak, and his soldiers would do whatever he said.

"But a young man who worked for this centurion was very sick.

"Have you ever been sick? *(Listen.)* Sometimes we don't feel good. Maybe we have a sore throat or a runny nose. When I feel sick, it makes me feel sad. Can you show me a sad face? *(Make a sad face.)*

"Yes, I think the sick young man was sad too. He was so sick he had to stay in bed. He couldn't move at all! So, the centurion wanted to go see Jesus. Many people had already seen Jesus do amazing things. Jesus loves helping people and making them feeling all better, so the centurion knew Jesus could help the young man.

"When the centurion got to Jesus and told Jesus about the sick young man, Jesus said: 'I will come and make him better.'"

"But the centurion said: *(Hold up your hands with palms facing forward to indicate 'no.')*

"'No, You don't have to come into my home.'

"The centurion REALLY wanted Jesus to help the young man, but he knew that Jesus was POWERFUL … so powerful that Jesus only had to speak and the young man who was sick at the centurion's home would be all better.

"So, the centurion said: 'Just say the word from where you are, and I know he will be all better.'

"Jesus was so surprised! So, Jesus told the centurion to go back home. He said:

"It will be done just as you believed it would" (Matthew 8:13 NIrV).

“And at that very moment, the young man was all better. He wasn't sick anymore, and he could move again!

“Wow, ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing!** Jesus didn't have to go to the young man who was sick. He didn’t have to give him bandages or medicine. He didn’t even have to be right next to him! All Jesus had to do was speak, and the young man was all better. ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing?”**

CHILDREN and LEADER: ***[Bottom Line]*** **“Jesus is amazing.”**

LEADER: “Yes, ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing.**

(Pick up and close Bible.) “Our story time is over, but we’re not through. Let’s talk to God because God loves you!”

PRAYER

Dear God, Jesus is so powerful he made the sick young man all better just by speaking! Thank You for giving us Jesus. Help us always remember to love others like Jesus loves them. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Centurion Says

SUPPLIES: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
Before the Activity:

- Line children up on one side of the room and stand across from them.

- "Friends, come line up over here and let's play a game."

During the Activity:

- Call out actions for children to do with "Centurion Says."

- "I am going to say, 'Centurion Says' and then an action I want you to do. But if say an action without saying the centurion says, then be really still and don't do it. Let's practice. Centurion says hop. *(Hop together.)* Great listening. Now clap. *(Pause.)* Uh-oh! The centurion didn't say clap. Great practicing! Now let's play! Centurion says … [clap, jump, touch head, twirl, sit down, stand up, and a mix of commands that don't start with 'Centurion Says.']. That was so fun."

After the Activity:

- "In today's Bible Story, we learned that the Centurion was a very powerful soldier, but He needed Jesus to help him. Jesus helped the young man who worked for the Centurion and made him all better just by speaking. Wow! ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing! Who is amazing?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **Jesus is amazing!"**