**1. Motivate**

In what situations are you least likely to ask for help?

* need directions
* when trying to do it by myself (in 2-year old mentality)
* when I do know how to do it

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://tinyurl.com/mr8hwsfk> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/38nak4ku>

* working on a car
* gardening
* cooking
* trying to make my phone do something
* when fishing or hunting
* playing golf, tennis, pickleball, etc.

**2. Transition**

Jesus wants us to come to Him for help.

* Jesus works on behalf of all who come to Him.
* He wants to express his grace to us.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Bring It to Jesus

Listen for a request for help.

John 4:46-47 (NIV) Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. 47 When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

Jesus is returning to Cana in Galilee.

* This is where he performed the first sign/miracle
* Turned the water into wine

Who approached Jesus, and why did he do so?

* a royal official comes to him
* came to ask for healing for his son
* wants Jesus to come to Capernaum

What words indicate the earnestness and urgency of his appeal to Jesus?

* distance traveled – all the way from Capernaum
* “begged Jesus”
* the son was “close to death”

What is it about Jesus that would motivate you to take your needs to Him?

* know of His power, authority, and love
* come to the end of our own resources – Jesus has resources, strength that we do not
* like the nobleman, believe that Jesus can meet the need
* promises we have in Scripture
* instructions to come to Him

Why might people hesitate to take their needs to Jesus?

* to small an issue … Jesus is busy with world events both of these are lies from Satan
* it’s too big of a problem, not even God can fix it
* “I am just one person among billions” – how can Jesus pay attention to me
* Jesus is holy, righteous – I’ve got a lot of sinful baggage in my life
* feel we can fix it on our own
* I’ll look it up on the internet, Google the problem
* might be an agnostic or atheist

In what ways are we typically more interested in what Jesus can do for us than what we can do for Jesus?

* maybe we take our salvation for granted – we’re also expecting all the perks or blessings of being a believer
* we think we deserve God’s attention
* we don’t deserve the problem and we more or less demand that God fix it
* He doesn’t need our help or attention, we need His
* I’ve been good, God owes me

Why do you think so many of our requests of Jesus involve physical needs rather than spiritual things?

* the spiritual issues are much more significant in our lives.
* we are more reluctant to admit to spiritual struggles than to physical imperfections
* no shame in admitting to having the flu,
* not so eager to admit an addiction to certain kinds of entertainment
* don’t want people to know we are struggling in our marriage
* don’t want you to know about my anger, my selfishness/greed

3.2 Take God at His Word

Listen for desperation and assurance.

John 4:48-50 (NIV) "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." 49 The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." 50 Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

What was Jesus’s unusual reply to the nobleman’s request to come with him?

* I don’t need to go
* *You* go … go on home
* your son will live

How did the nobleman demonstrate his next step of faith?

* took Jesus at His word
* headed for home

How might our lives be different if we took Jesus at His word?

* receive His strength
* not worry
* know that He has the problem taken care of
* turn all our problems over to Him
* experience victorious Christian living

What’s the difference between *believing in* God and *believing* God?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Believing in God | Believing God |
| * yes there is a God
* He’s a pretty good guy
* He keeps stars, planets in place
* keeps physical laws working
* probably a good idea to pay Him some attention, at least on Christmas and Easter
 | * know what He has claimed, promised
* depend on what He says
* trust His promises to be at work
* surrender to His authority
* cultivate your relationship with Him
* know that He is worth knowing
 |

The official had to trust Jesus before seeing the miracle—how can we practice that kind of faith in our lives?

* be aware of God’s promises
* know that Jesus *wants* us to come to Him
* be willing to admit our own helplessness
* become convinced that Jesus has the power and authority to deal with the problem
* convinced that He loves you and wants to accomplish good things in your life
* specifically tell Him your problem surrender it to Him
* tell Him (maybe repeatedly over time) that you know He is going to meet the need
* be sure to praise him and give Him the credit/glory before others when He does meet the need

What are some things God has told us in His Word that are sometimes hard for you to believe?

* move mountains,
* do away with “giants” in our lives
* “not willing that any should perish”
* “care for you” … “protect”
* “supply all your needs”

3.3 Let God Work as He Pleases

Listen for timing.

John 4:51-54 (NIV) While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. 52 When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour." 53 Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. 54 This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.

What encouraging word did the nobleman receive while traveling back home?

* servants had come to meet him as he traveled home
* brought news that the child was living
* actually, he had gotten better
* fever left him

He asked the servants when the improvement had happened. What did he find out?

* fever left at a certain time
* he realized that was exactly when he had talked with Jesus
* inferred that it was, indeed, Jesus who had accomplished the healing

What does this tell us about the relationship between Jesus' words and His power?

* Jesus’ power and authority are not bound by proximity and time
* our faith is ongoing, whether we can see immediate results or not
* we can pray where we are and find out that God has worked on the other side of the country or elsewhere in the world
* we might get a prayer request from a missionary that has been delayed, we can pray for it even though it seems too late to make a difference
* God can know of your prayer in the future and answer it in His “present” when the need may have existed in your past – (that doesn’t work for students praying for a good grade on the test after they have taken it 😊)

When the nobleman’s household found out about this miracle, they all believed. How does experiencing God's grace in our lives affect not just us individually but those around us?

* we demonstrate God’s working in our lives
* they see how God changes our lives, makes us different from what we used to be, different from others who do not claim to know Jesus
* we can share with them what God is doing in our lives
* we can be involved in “making disciples” as Jesus commanded in the Great Commission

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Respond.

* If you haven’t placed your faith in Christ, there’s no better time than right now to begin your journey with Christ and let Him give you victory in your life!
* Talk to a pastor or group leader about next steps.
* Some help is provided on the inside front cover of this book.

Reflect.

* Write down how your faith is similar or different from the royal official’s faith and how it has experienced transformation.
* Identify steps you can take that will help you grow in your walk with God.

Share.

* Take a moment to share with someone in your group or church how you have seen your faith grow in both answered and unanswered prayer.
* Ask that person about his or her own journey with the Lord.

MIRACULOUS
NEWS
OFFICIAL
PERFORMED
REALIZED
ROYAL
SECOND
SERVANTS
SEVENTH
SICK
SIGNS
SON
STILL
TIME
TURNED
UNLESS
WATER
WENT
WINE
WONDERS
WORD
YESTERDAY

ARRIVED
BEGGED
BELIEVE
BELIEVED
BETTER
CERTAIN
CHILD
CLOSE
COME
DEATH
DEPARTED
EXACT
FATHER
FEVER
HEAL
HEARD
HOUR
HOUSEHOLD
INQUIRED
LIVE
LIVING

Word Search from the Bible Study Passage

Ok, let’s make it a competition with that other class. Humph! Whichever class finds the most words (forward, down, diagonal only), the other class has to do double book reports! No cheating by going to <https://tinyurl.com/38nak4ku> (Except for the crossword or color page)