

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson the children in your club will be challenged to believe what God has promised them in His Word. They will hear the story about Jesus healing the nobleman's son. They will see how the nobleman believed Jesus when Jesus told him his son would be healed. When Jesus tells us something, we can believe it! **"Believe on Jesus, God the Son, to save you from sin"** is the main teaching for this lesson. As you teach, pray that the Holy Spirit will help your children believe on Jesus and the promises He has given in His Word.

Concepts covered in this lesson include:

- **Jesus:** Jesus is God.
- **God:** Faithful—God never breaks His promises.
- **God:** Omnipotent—God is all powerful.
- **Man:** Relying on God—I can always count on God, even when things don't make sense.

Demonstrations of the lessons and songs in this series, are available at: cefonline.com/freedemos/gnc



WORD UP!

"Believe God's promises!"

Have you ever made a promise to someone that you ended up not being able to keep? Maybe you promised your friend you would come to his party, but something came up and you couldn't go. Maybe you promised your mom you would clean your room but you got distracted and forgot. We don't always keep the promises we make, but you can always trust the promises God makes because He always keeps His promises. Whenever you hear "Word Up!" stand up and say **"Believe God's promises!"** (Say with children.)

Materials

Word-Up! Booklet
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Show the card and have the children repeat the statement: **"Believe God's promises!"** Tell them that anytime you call out "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out during transition times, times when they are restless or just anytime!

If you wish to add actions to the Word Up!, stretch hands out as if grabbing something and pull it towards you when you say "believe." Put both thumbs up when you say "promises."



SMALL GROUP TIME

"How Can I Love Like Jesus Did?" (Optional discussion)

(Write "Talk," "Ask," and "Spend Time" across the top of a large piece of poster board.) Jesus truly cared for and loved people who most people didn't like. Can you tell me how Jesus showed love to the Samaritan woman in our story last week? (Allow response.) He talked to her, cared about her life and spent time with her even though most people would never even think about doing that. Think silently to yourself about someone you know who may be difficult for you to love; maybe someone at school or in your neighborhood or even someone in your family. (Give children a minute to think.)

If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit can help you love this person. Think to yourself about one way you can show love to him or her like Jesus showed love to the Samaritan woman.

Materials

Poster board
Marker
Sticky notes

On this sticky note draw or write one way you can show love to that person. (*Be prepared to give examples such as compliment the person, ask about their favorite things to do, talk to them about Jesus, etc.*) When you are finished drawing, stick your note to the white board under one of the three ways Jesus showed love to the Samaritan woman. (*Give each child in your group a sticky note. When all the notes are up, read them aloud. Then pray that the Holy Spirit will help the children show love to people who are difficult to love.*)



LESSON

INTRODUCTION

When I was your age, my favorite thing to do after school was (*share favorite thing*). What are some things you like to do when you're not in school? (*Allow response.*) Maybe you like to play outside, read books, watch TV, play video games or hang out with friends. Those are some things most kids like to do.

Slide 1

A long time ago a little boy lived in a city called Capernaum (*kuh-PURR-nay-uhm*). Maybe he liked to play outside and spend time with his friends.

PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

Slide 2

But let's look at this picture. What do you think is happening? (*Allow response.*) Everyone looks so sad! The little boy was very sick. He couldn't go out and play. He had a high fever and had been sick for a long time. His father was so worried. He was an important man—the Bible calls him a nobleman (official)—but he could do nothing to make his son get better. Nothing seemed to be helping. He loved his son and must have been very worried that his son might die.



Death and sickness are part of life here on Earth. Was it supposed to be that way? No. When God made the world, He made it perfect and good. But then the first man and woman disobeyed God, bringing sin into God's creation. Disobeying God is sin. With sin came sickness and death and all kinds of sadness. (*Read Romans 5:12.*) This verse means that everyone's body will die someday. But there is more. Death means separation from God right now on Earth and forever. That is the worst thing about sin. Your sin separates you from the holy God. He can't have anything to do with sin. Maybe your parent has said not to watch a certain movie, but at your friend's house you watched it anyway. Maybe you knew you were supposed to take care of your pet but didn't give him food or water for two days. These are some things kids your age might do that are sin. You are born with the "want to" to sin. That makes a problem between you and God that you can't fix on your own. Sin is a terrible thing. Death and sickness are part of this world because of it.

Materials

Point to Capernaum on Bible Map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Lead the children in pretending to care for a sick person. They could pretend to give him medicine, take his temperature or wipe his forehead with a damp cloth.

Preschool Song

"I Believe the Bible" v. 3

Materials

Point to "Sin enters God's world" on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

The father was worried that his son would die and he couldn't do anything about it. But he had heard about a man named Jesus. Lots of people were talking about Jesus and the amazing things He was doing! What are some miracles Jesus did that they may have heard about? (*Allow response.*) Remember how Jesus had changed water to wine? It was a miracle! Maybe Jesus would help this man!

Slide 3

The nobleman left his home in Capernaum and began walking to Cana—about 15 miles—to find Jesus. Can you imagine walking to (*name a town approximately 15 miles from where you are*)? That's a long way and they didn't even have cars back then. But the father was willing to go that far if Jesus would come and heal his son! So he started walking. Stand up and walk in place while we count the 15 miles. Here we go! (*Do with children.*) Can you imagine walking for many hours?

Slide 4

When the man got to Cana, he found Jesus. He said to Jesus, "Please come and heal my son! He is about to die!" Jesus looked at the man and said, (*read John 4:48*). Everyone had been talking about Jesus because He was doing and saying things no one had ever done or said before. Some people didn't believe on Him. Some were starting to believe Jesus was the Savior God had promised. But still others just wanted to see more and more amazing things.



Jesus could do these amazing miracles because He is God. He is perfect and holy. He has power over everything because He is the Creator of everything. On the count of three shout out your favorite thing God made. One, two, three! (*Do with children.*) God made the world and the entire universe. He is in charge of all of it. It all belongs to Him. He made you too and loves you more than you can ever imagine. (*Read Jeremiah 31:3b.*) Jesus, who created everything, loves you with a forever love! Jesus showed His great love for you by coming to the world He created. He came to show people He is God the Son, who loves and cares for them. One of the ways He showed this was by doing miracles—things only God can do.

The man knew Jesus' miracles were amazing. He also knew Jesus was the last hope for his son to get better and not die. So he said, "Sir, please come before my son dies!"

What would Jesus do? Would Jesus go with the man right then and heal his son?

Slide 5

Jesus looked at the sad father and said, "Go back home. Your son will live!" Jesus had not been to the house to see the boy. He just spoke the words that the boy would be well. What do you think the father thought about that? (*Allow response.*)

Materials

Point to Cana and Capernaum on Bible map.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have the children say, "Please come help my son!"

Preschool Song

"God Made the Mountains High"

Lesson 4

Materials

"Omniscient" card
"Omnipotent" card
(See GNC Resource Pack.)

Preschool Activity

Have the children flex their muscles and repeat the word "omnipotent" several times.

Preschool Song

"Tell the Story True" v. 2

Preschool Activity

To help younger children understand the miracle of the boy being healed at the same time that Jesus said he would get better, show them a clock or watch that is set to 1:00 and explain that this is what time it was when Jesus said the boy would get better.

Preschool Activity

Explain to the children that it would have taken the father a long time to get home. Have them stand up and follow you in a short walk around the teaching area.

Jesus knew all about the boy and his sickness. Do you remember the word we learned last week when we talked about the Samaritan woman at the well? I will give you some clues and when you remember the word, shout it out. Here is your first clue: It's a word that means all knowing. (*Continue giving clues as needed; e.g., God knows everything about you, it starts with the letter "o," etc.*)

Slide 6

The word is *omniscient*! (*Hold up the card and have children shout omniscient together.*)

Slide 7

This week we have another new word. (*Show "omnipotent" card.*) This word is *omnipotent*. It means "all powerful."

Jesus is omnipotent—all powerful. If He wanted to, He could heal the boy even from a town 15 miles away. Jesus can give life when no one else can.



Jesus is the only one who can give life because He is God the Son. He is also the only one who could take the punishment for your sin. Jesus lived a perfect life on Earth—He never sinned but sinful men who hated Jesus accused Him of things He did not do and had Him put to death on a cross. They put nails in His hands and His feet and blood flowed from His body. (*Read Revelation 1:5b.*) Because He loves you, He willingly died and gave His blood for you. He was separated from God because your sin was put on Him. Jesus died and was buried but on the third day He came alive again! He is living today in Heaven ruling as King. One day in the future Jesus will make all things new—there will be no more sickness and death. Things will be perfect. Jesus offers you eternal life starting today because of what He did for you.

Slide 8

Jesus can give life when no one else can. Jesus told the father to go back home—that his son would live. Would the boy's father trust Jesus? Would he stay and keep asking Jesus to come or would he go?

Which choice would show that the boy's father trusted Jesus and believed His words? (*Allow response.*) Let's see what happened. (*Read John 4:50b.*) The father believed!

Slide 9

How relieved the father must have been! His son would not die! Jesus was showing who He is—God the Son, who is all powerful! He loves and cares for people. The man believed Jesus. He hurried home, trusting that Jesus could heal his son by just speaking the word.

Slide 10

As the man got closer to his home, his servants ran out to meet him. Guess what they said? (*Allow response.*) They said, "Your son lives!" The father was so excited! Jesus has power over everything! When Jesus said the boy would get well, he did!



Jesus' words were true! If you have believed on Jesus as your Savior,
Believe what God has promised you in His Word.

Slide 11

Say with me, **"Believe God's promises!"** (*Say with children.*) I have three cards with some promises on them from God's Word. (*Have three children come up and read the promises for the cards. On one side of the card have the verse and on the other have the promise that goes with it: Hebrews 13:5b with "God is always with you," Hebrews 13:6a with "God is your helper," and 1 John 1:9 with "God forgives." If you have a whiteboard or large sheet of paper, write the promises on it after each verse is read.*) When you are afraid remember God is always with you (*point to "God is always with you"*). When you need help to know how to live for God remember God promises to be your helper (*point to "God is your helper"*). When you know you've sinned and need to confess (agree with God about) your sin, you can know God forgives you (*point to "God forgives"*). All of God's promises in His Word are true—you can believe them! God is faithful; what God says He will do. He will always be with you, He will help you live for Him and He will forgive you when you sin. You can trust His promises! Jesus' words are always true.

Slide 12

When Jesus said the boy would get well, he did! The father was so excited! Everyone stand up and clap and cheer. (*Do with children.*) That's probably how the father felt.

He asked, "What time did my son start getting better?"

The servants said, "Yesterday about the seventh hour (about 1:00 p.m.) the fever left him." That was the *exact* time the man had been talking to Jesus!

CLIMAX

At the exact moment when Jesus said, "Your son will live!" the boy started getting better! Only Jesus could speak the words and heal the boy, even from far away. Jesus is God who cares for people!

CONCLUSION

Slide 13

The Bible says that the man and everyone in his house believed on Jesus! Jesus did this miracle to show He is God and He has power over sin and death. God has not promised to heal everyone but He has promised to be with you and help you no matter what you are going through. And best of all, He came to Earth to bring life—everlasting life for those who would believe on Him.

Preschool Song

"Tell the Story True" vv. 1-2

Materials

Point to "Jesus shows His power over sickness" on Timeline.
(See GNC Starter Resource Pack.)
Word Up! Booklet
"God's Promises—Saved Child"
verse reproducibles
(See GNC Resource Pack.)
Marker/pen
Whiteboard/paper

Preschool Help

If teaching young children, it is recommended that only Hebrews 13:5b and 13:6a are used for this exercise about the promises of God. Take time to explain the promises to the children and have them repeat the words after you.

Preschool Activity

Show the children the same clock that was shown earlier. Explain that the son was healed at the exact time that Jesus said he would get better even though Jesus was a long way from the son.

Important Reminder

Remember, it is not the prayer that saves the child. Salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit convicting the child of his or her sinful condition and drawing him or her to trust completely in Christ and His work on the cross. The prayer is the child's expression of that belief to God. (See "Guiding a Child to the Savior" on the inside front cover.)

Preschool Invitation

When presenting the invitation to preschoolers, use John 3:15 and "believe in" terminology. Ask those who have questions about believing in Jesus to stay with you while the others move on to another activity.

INVITATION



If you have never believed on Jesus as your Savior, your sin separates you from God. But when Jesus died on the cross, He was separated from God for you so you can have everlasting life with Him. (*Read John 3:36a.*) This verse is talking to you, me and everyone in the world! To believe is to trust (depend) on Jesus alone to save you. When you believe on Jesus you will receive everlasting life that starts the minute you believe! You then have a relationship with God—you won't be separated from Him anymore. He will be with you all the time and help you live for Him. Then one day you will live with Him forever in Heaven. Have you believed on Jesus? If not, will you do that right now? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you want to **believe on Jesus, God the Son, to save you from sin**, or you have questions about what that means, please show me by looking up at me. (*Acknowledge responses.*) You may all open your eyes. If you looked up at me to show me you want to talk to me, please meet me (*designate time and location*) and I will show you from the Bible what it means to have everlasting life.