

Theme: Faith is the key that unlocks the power of God.

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

Memory Verse: "When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, He said, 'I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.' " (Luke 7:9)

Get Ready: Click <u>here</u> to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon

You'll Need:

A ring of keys

Do This:

Keys come in all different shapes and sizes. I have a lot of keys on my key ring. (Show kids the key ring and then describe what each key is for.) There is a key to my house and to my car and my post office box. Some people have keys to their office at work or to cabinets where they keep important papers. They might also have a key to their safe at the bank. Most keys unlock very important things.

Most of us use keys every day, but today we are going to talk about a key that we may never even think about. It is a key called FAITH. Now faith isn't a key that is made of metal like these keys on my key ring, but it may be the most important key, because it is the key that unlocks God's power. Our Bible lesson today tells us about a man who used his faith to heal someone he cared for very much.

One day Jesus was in a town called Capernaum. There was a Roman army officer, who had a servant who was very sick and about to die. The officer heard about Jesus and sent some men to ask Jesus to come and heal his servant. The men came to Jesus and begged him to heal the officer's servant, so Jesus went with them. Before Jesus got there, the officer sent some men to say to Him, "Don't even go to the trouble to come to my house, because I am not worthy of such an honor. Just say the word and my servant will be healed."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He turned to the crowd of people that was following him and said, "I haven't seen faith like this in all of Israel!" The officer's friends turned and went back to the centurion's house. When they arrived, they found the servant completely healed. Just like the faith of the officer in this story, our faith can unlock God's power in our lives.

There is a song that we love to sing that says:

My God is so big (great)
So strong and so mighty
There's nothing my God cannot do.

PRAY: Heavenly Father, help us remember that no matter what problems we may face, our faith in you is the key that unlocks your mighty power. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

"When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, He said, 'I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.'" (Luke 7:9)

You'll Need:

- Bibles
- "Unlock Faith" handout 1 per group
- Scissors
- Cardstock

Get Ready: Before class, print the "Unlock Faith" handout, one per group. Cut the pieces and number each set, then hide the pieces around the room.

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Read the Bible verse out loud to the class.
- Form groups of 4-5 kids and label each group with the number you wrote on the sets of cards.
- Invite kids to search the room for all of the pieces to their memory verse.
- Help kids use their Bibles to put the verse in order as a group.

ASK:

- What was Jesus amazed by?
- How can you have great big faith?

SAY: Great job learning today's Bible memory verse! Today we're learning that when faith in God is the key to unlocking God's power.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A Bible
- A ring of keys

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

Read Luke 7:1-10 out loud.

Today we're learning that because of one man's great faith in God, Jesus was able to heal another man. Faith is the key that unlocks God's power.

- Have kids gather in a circle and give one child the ring of keys.
- Explain that kids are going to pass the ring of keys around the circle as you lead them in singing, "My God is so great."
- When the song ends, whoever is holding the keys wins.
- Play several rounds as time allows.

ASK:

- What does it mean to have faith in God?
- How can you show others your faith?

Faith Is The Key

You'll Need:

- "Faith Is The Key" video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show the video.

ASK:

- How does God help us?
- Why do we have faith in God?

Keyhole Snacks

You'll Need:

- Rice Krispies Treats 1 per child
- Plates
- Napkins

Get Ready: Have kids wash their hands before the snack.

Do This:

Follow these steps to enjoy the "Keyhole" Snacks:

• Give each child a plate and a Rice Krispies Treat.

- Invite kids to poke through the Rice Krispies Treat to create a hole, like one you might put a key through.
- Enjoy.

ASK:

- How does God take care of us?
- How does God make us feel safe?

SAY: Our God is so powerful, and He uses that power to love and care for us. Faith in God is the key to unlocking His power.

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

My God Is So Great

You'll Need:

A large playing area

Do This:

Follow these steps to play the "My God Is So Great" game:

- Have kids line up on one side of the room.
- Choose two children to link arms at the other end of the room.
- Lead kids in singing, "My God is so great, so strong and so mighty, there's
 nothing my God cannot do for you." Each time you finish singing, the kids linking
 arms will choose one child to run to the other side of the room to try and break
 their link.

- If they do not break the link, the child will link up with those who called on them.
 If they break the link, they get to go back to the lineup with the rest of the classroom.
- Play several rounds until all of the kids have become part of the chain.

ASK:

- How do you feel when you hear Jesus loves you?
- What is something that can help grow your faith in Jesus?

SAY: When we have faith in what God can do and who He is, there's nothing He can't and won't do for us. Faith is the key to unlocking God's power.

Keys of Faith

You'll Need:

- "Keys of Faith" handout 1 per child
- Scissors
- Markers
- A hole punch
- Chenille wire 1 per child

Get Ready: Before class, print the "Keys of Faith" handout, one for each child.

Do This:

Lead kids in the following steps to make the "Keys of Faith" crafts:

- Give each child a "Keys of Faith" handout and markers.
- Invite kids to decorate their keys, then cut out each one..

- Hole punch all 6 keys, then invite kids to string their keys on chenille wire.
- Close the chenille wire.

SAY: Great job making your keyring crafts! Take these home as a reminder that faith is the key that unlocks God's power.

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

Unlocking Prayers

You'll Need:

- A large playing area
- "Keys of Faith" craft

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps to pray:

- Invite kids to gather in a large circle with their keyrings from the craft.
- Have kids share something that helps build their faith.
- Close in prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for giving us more than we deserve. We pray for faith that will unlock Your power in our lives and the lives of those around us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

• Song: "Only Believe"

Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Accompaniment Track

• Song: "God Is So Good"

Words and Music (pdf)

MP3 Accompaniment Track

SAY: When we follow Jesus with our hearts, we're able to worship Him with joy in every season. Let's give God honor and praise now.

Lead children in singing "Only Believe" and "God Is So Good."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

• Coloring Page

Complete Supply List

- A ring of keys
- A Bible
- "Unlock Faith" handout 1 per group
- Scissors
- Cardstock
- "Faith Is The Key" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- Rice Krispies Treats 1 per child
- Plates

- Napkins
- A large playing area
- "Keys of Faith" handout 1 per child
- Scissors
- Markers
- A hole punch
- Chenille wire 1 per child
- "Keys of Faith" craft

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