

Kids' Chronicle

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BY GERTRUDE M. AMESBURY

Jesus cures the centurion's servant

The senior centurion of Capernaum was an important man. He led a group of 100 men — called a "century."

One day, he was getting ready to ride out to where the troops were camped for a council of war.

He called for his aide. "Bring my horse," he told the aide. "But before I leave, I want to stop to see my servant, Malachi. He is very ill, and I am concerned about him."

The centurion walked over to the servants' housing. He entered Malachi's quarters where he saw the servant's wife, Miriam, crying.

"What is the matter, Miriam," he asked. "Is Malachi worse?"

Miriam nodded. "The doctor gives me no hope, sir. Malachi is going to die!"

The centurion rushed to Malachi's bedside and dropped to his knees. "I can't believe it!" he exclaimed. "There must be something I can do."

He bowed his head and took Malachi's cold hand in his own. Suddenly the centurion had a thought. "I know!" he said. "I will go to find this Jesus of Nazareth everyone is talking about. I have seen him working wonders among the sick in the villages. He will help us."

With that, he strapped on his helmet and marched out the door.

Jesus and his friends were walking toward Capernaum.

Suddenly they saw a group of Roman soldiers galloping toward them on horseback. Jesus' followers were frightened by the sight and they stopped in their tracks.

Jesus kept his pace and smiled at his followers' reaction. "They mean us no harm," he said. "See how the leader stops his horses a distance away so that the dust will not bother us? He is the centurion from Capernaum. Don't you recognize him?"

Word Search

Find these words from the story hidden in the puzzle below:

Capernaum	Legion
Cure	Miracle
Faith	Roman
Friends	Sea of Galilee
Jesus	Servant

K I S D N E I R F E K G
I G F U F W I F Z E R S
U I Y A S T H W I L H T
A Q R N E I M Z I S M
H T I A F T J G V L U I
R N T I R N H T I A K R
S A N R O M A N N G W A
U V E I O L O R C F D C
C B G T I E H T O E L
I E A N J P Y V I A M E
L S P X A V C U R E F Q
Z R L C G I K G G S B M



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

The other men squinted in the bright sun and dust, and then nodded in relief.

The centurion swung from his saddle. He walked up to Jesus and took off his helmet, holding it under one arm. "Sir, I know that you are Jesus of Nazareth. I have come to ask you to help me."

Jesus and the centurion stood face to face in the middle of the road. "And I know you," Jesus answered. "You are the centurion of Capernaum, the one who helped our people build the temple. You are a good man. How may I help you?"

"Sir, my servant is lying at home, paralyzed, in great pain and feverish. The doctor says he will die."

"I will come to cure him," Jesus said.

The centurion held up his hand to stop him. "Sir, I am not worthy to have you under my roof; just give the word and my servant will be healed," he told Jesus. "Like you, I have authority. If I tell one soldier under my command to go, he goes. If I say to another, 'Come here,' he comes. If I tell my servant to do something, he does it. That is how I know you have the power to cure my servant."

Jesus turned to his followers and said, "I tell you truly, nowhere in Israel have I found faith like this man's!"

Facing the centurion again, Jesus said, "Go back, then; because of your faith, your request has been answered."

The servant became well at that very moment.

Read more about it: Matthew 8:5-13 and Luke 7:1-10.

1. What did the centurion help the people to build?
2. Why was the Roman officer from Capernaum called a "centurion"?

The Bible Times

31 A.D.

Jerusalem — Residents of Capernaum, a city on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, were surprised last week by the sudden cure of the servant Malachi, whose death had been expected to occur quickly.

According to Capernaum's senior centurion, whose servant Malachi had been, the cure was a "miracle" performed by the traveling preacher Jesus.

The centurion said he had heard reports that Jesus was a "healer," and thought of the preacher when he learned his servant was about to die.

The centurion reported that he took some of his men and rode out in search of Jesus, encountering the preacher on the road into town. He said the Jesus told him to go home, where he would find his servant had recovered.

In honor of his servant's cure, the centurion is hosting a celebration today in the town square. Food, dancing and entertainment will continue through sunset. The public is welcome to attend.

March Essay Winner

Congratulations to Sarah Leo, a fifth-grade student at St. Patrick School in Seneca Falls. She is the winner of a \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the March Kids' Club Contest. Her essay is reprinted below.

March Essay Question: How can you feed hungry people?
I can give food to hungry people mostly by giving to the House of Concern and the Salvation Army. I can give money to the commercials on T.V. for poor, hungry, starving people. I can also donate money to the Red Cross. If there is ever a hungry person in our neighborhood I would send them money without them knowing. I will always keep these people in my prayers. I hope someday there is no one without food. I wish that I could do miracles like Jesus did, then I could make sure everyone had food.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"The name of God is a strong tower; the virtuous man runs to it and is secure."

Proverbs 18:10

Talking to God

Dear Jesus,
Help me to realize, like the centurion, that I am not worthy of your answers to my prayers, but that you will answer them out of your love for me. The centurion believed in your power because he had seen your miracles. Let me see the small miracles that occur in my life each day. I thank you for coming to me in Holy Communion to strengthen my faith.
"Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed."
(From the Communion Rite of the Mass)

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!!!
What are some of the small miracles that occur in your life each day?

Write an answer of 100 words or less. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. The winner will be notified by phone. The essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of *Kids' Chronicle*. Send your entry to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The deadline for essays is April 22, 1993.



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