Faith in Jesus' Mercy and Healing

1. Read the story *The Healing of a Centurion's Servant.*
2. Discuss the questions following the story on the backside of the paper.
3. Read the story *A Heart Full of Contrition.*
2. Discuss the questions following the story on the backside of the story.
4. Parent and Child: say prayer:

Parent & Child: As a sign of love and forgiveness we will promise to try to love God, each other, our family and others more each day. Jesus, we give you our heart.

Parent: I promise to help you, (child's name) to love God, others, and yourself more each day.

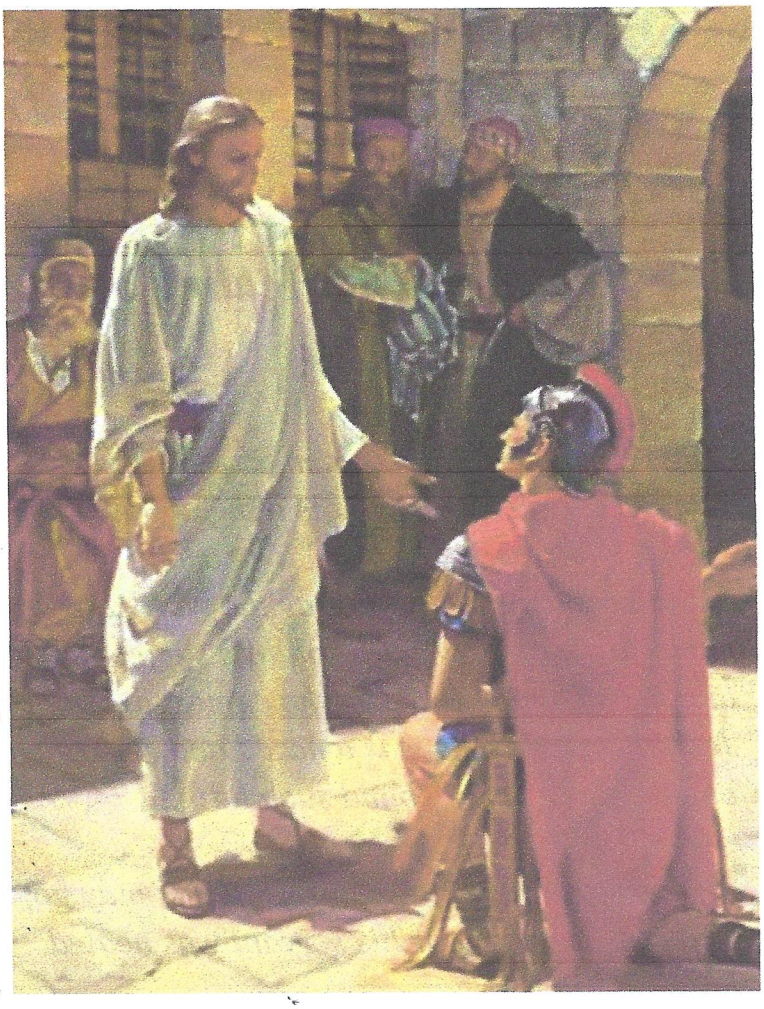
Parent & Child: Thank You Jesus for Your Mercy.

The Healing of a Centurion's Servant

(Matthew 8:5-10, 13)

When he entered Capernaum (Ka-per-num), a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go', and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."

And Jesus said to the centurion, "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you." And at that very hour his servant was healed.



Discussion Questions:

1. *What did the centurion need?*
2. *Did he tell Jesus what he needed?*
3. *What could, that mean: Lord I am not worthy?*
4. *Is there something special about Jesus that the centurion felt unworthy to have him in his home?*
5. *The centurion talked about authority…is Jesus the boss of something?*
6. *We know the centurion came with great faith. He understood Jesus had authority to forgive and heal.*
7. *What did Jesus say at the end?*
8. *What happened to the servant of the centurion?*
9. *Have you those words before: "I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof?"*
10. *Where have you heard those words before?*
11. *We say similar words at Mass, right before we receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We say, "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."*
12. *Both say "not worthy" and "under my roof".*
13. *We too feel unworthy, but ask Jesus to heal us so we can receive Him. Soon you will be able to come to the table of the Lord. You will take the Lord into you, under the roof of your mouth and into your body. Blessed are we!*
14. *How wonderful that our community has preserved these words down through the ages, these words of the centurion. We can think of him in his humility, his hope, his courage and we think of Jesus who heals us with His very self, this wonderful gift!*

A HEART FULL OF CONTRITION

The Pardon of the Sinful Woman
(Luke 7:36-40, 44-50)

A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner."

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one, whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins? But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Discussion Questions:

1. *Why did the woman go to Simon's house?*

2. *What did the woman do when she arrived at the house?*

3. *Why do you think the woman began to cry?*

4. *What did the woman do that showed that she was sorry for her sins?*
    a. *"Contrition" means deep sorrow for sins. This is the most important thing to have in our hearts – deep sorrow for our sins - for the sacrament of Reconciliation. When we say our act of contrition we say we are sorry for our sins and then we receive a penance from the priest to make up for the hurt our sins have caused.*

5. *Why is it important that we are sorry for our sins?*

6. *How did Jesus respond to the woman?*

7. *Who was more sorrowful for their sins, the Pharisee or the woman?*