

MIRACLES

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



HEALING OF THE CENTURION'S SERVANT

Read Luke 7:1-10

In the Roman army, a legion of soldiers was 6,000 men. It would be impossible for one or even a few men to be in charge of all of those soldiers. So they divided the soldiers up into groups. Each legion had 10 cohorts and each cohort had 6 centuria. A centurion would be the person in charge of 100 of those men.

The centurion that we read about today was being respectful of Jesus. He knew

1

GOAL

Learn about two of the miracles of Christ & expand our literacy in relation to icons

2

AT CHURCH

We learn about the miracles of Christ during the Gospel readings.

3

AT HOME

We learn about the miracles of Christ when we read the Bible to our kids at home.



Centurion:

Originally, a man in charge of 100 Roman soldiers & disciplining them; later 80 men



Nain:

A village just south of Nazareth in lower Galilee



Widow:

A woman who's husband has died

that Jews would be ritually unclean if they came in contact with someone like himself, a Gentile or non-Jew. So, the centurion sent people to beg Jesus to heal his cherished servant who was so sick that he was about to die. The centurion knew Jesus was his only hope!

Jesus quickly agrees to heal the servant and begins walking towards the centurion's home.

But wait! That's not what the centurion wanted though. He knew he was unworthy to be in the presence of Jesus and sent more friends to implore Him to heal the sick servant from afar. As a person in charge of many others, the centurion knew that Jesus could just say a word and the servant would be healed.

And this is exactly what happened - when the friends of the centurion returned to him, they found the beloved servant completely healed!

RAISING OF THE WIDOW'S SON IN NAIN

Read Luke 7:11-17

The day after healing the centurion's servant in Capernaum, Jesus was in Nain. As He



approached the city gate - remember that oftentimes the cities had a large outer wall built around them in order to protect them from invaders - Jesus came across a large burial procession for a man who had recently died. This man was the only son of his mother and she was a widow. This was a devastating circumstance during this time period because women were supported by the men in their family.

Christ felt compassion and love upon this woman and raised her son from the dead!

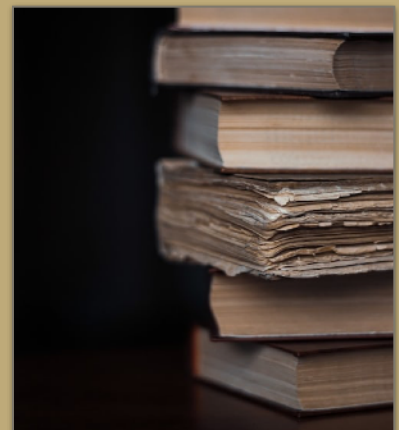
ICONS

In the icon of Christ healing the centurion's servant, you see Christ towards the left side and His disciples behind Him. On the right side of the

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 149-165

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 73-81



icon, you see the centurion and his ill servant. Christ is blessing the ill servant.

In the icon of the raising of the widow's son, you see Christ towards the center of the icon blessing the man who had recently died and then was resurrected by Jesus. At the center, bottom of the icon you see the mother of the son who is on her knees before Christ.

Oftentimes, the cities were surrounded by a large wall and the only way to enter and exit the city was through the city gates.

You also see the two large crowds essentially colliding as one is entering the city (Christ and His followers) and one is exiting the city with a funeral procession. Luke records this dramatic surprise with a "behold!"

1ST SEMESTER REVIEW

We are going to take the opportunity to review what we've learned so far this year. You have several options for how you want to approach this review.

OPTION 1: ICON SORT & SUMMARY

- **Ask the students to sort the icons into three piles**
 - **Feasts of the Church**
(Can you place them in order of when we celebrate them during our ecclesiastical year?)
 - **Miracles of Christ**
 - **Parables of Christ**
- **Then ask the students to write a short summary (or major points) of each icon on a post-it note.**

OPTION 2: CHOOSE AND TELL

- **Ask each student to choose one icon and then tell the class about it.**

OPTION 3: TIMELINE & MAP

- **Review the events we have studied thus far about St. John the Baptist and Christ's life**
Do you have more information to add to the timeline? Do you want to match the icons to the summaries on the timeline?
- **Review the places we've studied on the map**
Call out a location, have the student find it and ask what happened there. For example, "Bethlehem." The student would find the city on the map and then explain that this is where Jesus was born.

OPTION 4: I DON'T REMEMBER OR DON'T KNOW

- Ask the students to look at the icons we've studied. Is there a lesson they missed and want to learn about it? Is there one that they didn't fully understand or forgot what it was about? Take the opportunity to go over the icon with them.
- Is there a lesson that they went home and thought about and now have a question about it?

SING

O holy apostles...

MIRACLES

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

Since the illnesses (of the people) were many and varied, and Hadjiephentis (St. Arsenios) could not always find a corresponding prayer for each, he would take the book of Psalms and use those as well. He would read the Gospel usually in only very serious cases, such as for the blind, the mute, the paralyzed and the possessed. When

he saw someone physically ill, who was also spiritually sick, he did not heal him at once, but gradually, that is, he told him to come again and again, until he had healed him spiritually, and only then did he also miraculously make him physically well with the final prayer.

Saint Paisios of Mount Athos

Saint Arsenios the Cappadocian, page 63

HOME ACTIVITY #11

WATCH TOGETHER AND DISCUSS:

- (YouTube) [Capernaum, Greek Orthodox Christian Church on the Sea of Galilee](#) - It's important for us to read the Bible and the lives of the saints to our children often. When we have taught our kids about the life of Christ and His saints, they have a foundation for reading the icons around them.
- (YouTube) [Nain Israel: Come with me to where Jesus raised the widow's son](#) - The Church has often built churches upon sites as a witness to Christ's life and His saints.



