

Wow

Week 1

BIG IDEA

Wow! Jesus has the power to heal.

BIBLE

The Faith of the Centurion: Luke 7:1–10; Mark 1:29–39

WELCOME

MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use one of our Spotify playlists to play background music while kids play OR stream the main worship service on your classroom TV to watch the worship happening in the Auditorium.*

QUESTION | Home Remedy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This question will be written on the board as a conversation starter during free time.*
 - **What makes you feel better when you're sick?**

PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with games and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins.*
 - *This is a great opportunity to get to know some kids and work on building relationships.*
 - *Have kids go to the bathroom prior to class beginning*
 - *At the end of Free Time, have kids work together to clean up toys/activities and then join you for the lesson - either on risers or on the floor.*

LARGE GROUP TIME

INTRO

- Welcome to church today, friends! Today is the start of a brand new series called *Wow!* Are you ready to dive into the wonders of God's power? The things we learn together this month are sure to make you say "WOW!"
- Before we dive into our Bibles together, let me ask you about the times when you aren't feeling very "wow" at all.
- Raise your hand if you've ever been sick. Everyone gets sick sometimes. Especially at this time of the year. Let's see how we all handle being sick.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | When I'm Sick

- I'm going to describe some things you might do if you're sick and I want you to show me if you agree or not. When I read a statement, I want you to stand up if your answer is "yes" and sit if your answer is "no"
 - A bandaid makes me feel better.
 - I like to stay in bed all day when I don't feel well.
 - I have had to sleep over at the hospital before.
 - I like to drink warm tea when my throat is scratchy.
 - My favorite medicine flavor is grape.
 - Chicken noodle soup always makes me feel better.
 - Snuggling with my favorite stuffed toy helps me feel better.
 - I can't remember the last time I felt sick.
 - Getting sick feels scary.
- When we're sick, our bodies are telling us that something isn't right. In order to get better, we have to heal. In today's Bible story, people would come looking for Jesus when they or someone they knew was sick. They had heard that Jesus could heal them and make them healthy again – sometimes, even healthier than before!
- Today's Bible story is going to show us that no matter what kind of healing is needed, Jesus is up to the task!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

(OPTIONAL) VIDEO | *Wow!*, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** While telling the Bible story in person is preferred, you may choose to play [this week's Bible story video](#) and re-cap the story with the script below.

SCRIPTURE | Luke 7:1–10 (The Faith of the Centurion)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage or tell the Bible story using the script below. If you'd like, dress up (or ask another volunteer) as a quirky researcher named "Scientist Sam," using lab goggles and a lab coat or apron. Scientist Sam likes to say "Wow" a lot, and whenever Sam does, encourage kids to make a "W" with three fingers on both hands and hold them up beside their face.
 - To lean in to the science theme, play a short clip from a video like [this one](#) of a foaming fountain as a teaching tool toward the end of the lesson.
- Wow! So good to see you all! I'm Scientist Sam, and I love experiments, cool technology, and explosions – but the safe kind where no one gets hurt! But I'm super excited to step away from my experiments for a bit to share with you the neatest displays of power I have ever known! No, it's not gravity, magnetism, or even electricity. None of these compare with the power I'm talking about!
- **Does anyone know what power I am talking about?** Jesus! Wow! That's right – it's the power of Jesus! Jesus has the power to do amazing, astounding, jaw-dropping things that will blow your mind and change your life!
- One day, around 2,000 years ago, Jesus displayed this power and changed someone's life forever. Wow!
- **Are you ready to explore this power? Let's read Luke 7:1–10 together.**
 - Wow! Am I right? The centurion was a member of the Roman army and wasn't Jewish, so he wasn't someone who'd normally be caught talking to a Jewish person like Jesus. For him to even be in that crowd, around Jesus, would have been shocking at the time.
 - Even so, the centurion had huge faith in Jesus' power to heal. He said that Jesus didn't even have to come to his house for a miracle to happen. He believed that a miracle would happen just because Jesus said so. Wow! Now, that's faith!
- In the world of science, a catalyst is something that causes a chemical reaction to speed up.

Want to see how it works?

 - (Show the foaming fountain video.)
 - Wow! It's amazing how something so simple can cause such a big reaction.
- The centurion's faith acted like a catalyst, too. Instead of having Jesus come all the way to his house to heal his servant, his faith led him to believe that Jesus could just say a word and the healing would happen . . . and that's exactly what happened, right then and there! Jesus saw the centurion's big faith and activated God's big power! Wow!

BIG IDEA | Wow! Jesus has the power to heal.

- That reminds me of our Big Idea today!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the Big Idea poster on the white board while you have kids repeat after you.
- Let's say our Big Idea together: **Wow! Jesus has the power to heal.**
- The Bible is filled with stories of Jesus' power to heal people. People came from all over to see him and be healed from sicknesses and diseases.
- Healing people was a big part of what Jesus did on earth as he travelled around with his disciples, but Jesus didn't just heal people who were sick. Jesus cared about healing people's hearts, minds, and souls.
- He wanted everyone to know that God cares about us and can heal not just our bodies but any other hurts we might have.
- **Wow! Jesus has the power to heal anything!**

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

- We have a brand new memory verse to learn together today. Each month, we memorize some of God's word, straight from the Bible because God's word show us how to live and remind us of who God is.
- This new verse reminds us of God's power and shows us that we can always turn to him.
- Here's what it says:
 - **"In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all."**
- **Strength and power are in whose hands?** God's!
- **What does exalt mean?** Exalt means to raise or lift up. So, this verse says that God has the strength and power to lift us up and make us strong.
- **Can God give anyone the strength they need?** Yes!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids repeat the verse after you out loud, using the motions below.*
- Let's practice our verse together.
 - **In your hands** (*Hold out both hands in front of you.*)
 - **Are strength** (*Flex right arm.*)
 - **And power** (*Flex left arm.*)
 - **To exalt** (*Lifting motion.*) This word, "exalt," means to lift up. Can you pretend you are lifting something up as you say this word with me?
 - **And give strength.** (*Flex both arms.*)
 - **To all.** (*Sweep your arms out in front of you from your waist, palms facing up.*)
 - **1 Chronicles 29:12b** (*clap hands together, then open hands like a book*)
- Nice work, friends! When we memorize God's word, we let it live in our hearts and remind us of who God is and what he does.

PRAYER

- Now, we're going to have a chance to talk with our friends in small groups about everything we learned today and ask any questions you might have. Before we do, let's pray together.
 - Wow, God, you are powerful! Help us to have faith in your power to heal not just sickness in our bodies, but the brokenness in our hearts, too. We know that you care about us and give us what is good. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you haven't already, split kids into smaller groups, ideally by grade. Use the following questions to help reinforce the lesson. Invite kids to share any questions they might have.*
- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**

- **Why did the centurion seek out Jesus?** *His servant was sick and about to die.*
- **Why did the centurion tell Jesus not to come to his house to see the servant?** *He felt he didn't deserve Jesus making the trip to his house. He believed Jesus could say the word and his servant would be healed.*
- **How did Jesus respond to this?** *He was amazed at the centurion's faith. The servant was healed right away.*
- **Read Mark 1:38. Why does Jesus say he came to earth? What does that have to do with healing?** *He said to preach about God. Jesus can heal more than just physical illnesses. We have a problem with sin that lives in our hearts and we needed a healer for that, too!*

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- **Tell about a time that you or someone you know was healed. How do you know that was Jesus?** *Jesus used only his words to heal the centurion's servant from miles away.*
- We can always pray to God and ask for healing. Just like the people in our Bible story, we just might witness that . . . **Jesus has the power to heal.**
- **Who are some people in your life that may need healing that you can pray for?**

MEMORY VERSE | 1 Chronicles 29:12b (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Review the memory verse, then award prizes to kids that can say the verse from memory.*
- We have a brand new memory verse to learn together this month.
- This new verse reminds us of God's power and shows us that we can always turn to him.
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 - **1 Chronicles 29:12b** (*clap hands together, then open hands like a book*)
- Nice work, friends! When we memorize God's word, we let it live in our hearts and remind us of who God is and what he does. You can practice your verse all week long at home, too. Don't forget to take a memory verse card home!