

Luke 7:1-17

Jesus Cares

Scripture: Luke 7:1-17

Memory Verse: Luke 7:13 *‘When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”’*

Lesson Focus: Two very different people encounter Jesus in our Scripture today, but what we will see is that Jesus responds to each one the same way: with care and compassion. **Jesus cares** and He shows that in His responses to each character. We will afterwards challenge the kids to think about people in their lives that they can show that they care about this week as a response to their love for Jesus.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of the Centurion, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd grade: Raising the Widow’s Son

Starter Activity: Wordle or Similar Game

Consider getting the lesson started with a game of “Wordle”. Wordle is a viral online word game that gives players six chances to find a word. Look [here](#) for the rules and consider trying to play this game with your class using the whiteboard. Make sure you explain the rules to them clearly. If it seems too complicated, then simple “Hangman” or some variation of that would work too. Either way, have different kids take turns offering guesses. *

The five-letter word that you want to introduce to your class is “**cares**”. After the game have some discussion about what this word means.

Q: What does it mean to “**care**” for someone?

A: It means you feel concern or interest over the needs of someone else.

Now put a few common people before the word “cares” on the whiteboard and ask them how these people show that they care.

Examples: ***Mom** cares, **My teacher** cares, **My doctor** cares, etc.*

Finally, add ***Jesus** cares* and use this to transition into the lesson.

In our lesson today, we are going to see the caring, compassionate heart of Jesus on display. We are going to meet two different people that encountered Jesus and we will see how He showed that He cared for them. Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

Luke 7:1-2: Jesus enters the city of Capernaum where there is a centurion with a dying servant. This is the first character that will meet Jesus.

Q: How many of you kids have family in the US military? What are their roles or titles? Centurions were men of high rank in the ancient Roman military. Perhaps you could compare them to generals in the US military. They had great power and authority.

(Teachers: Consider suddenly pretending to be an army general and bark out some orders to the kids like: “Attention! Salute! March in place! At ease!”) *

Yet notice that this centurion had a servant who was “dear to him”. This shows us that while this centurion had great power and authority, he also **cared** for this young servant of his who was dying. *

Luke 7:3: I wonder what he had heard or seen about Jesus! * This guy was a powerful Roman, not a Jew. Yet somehow word of Jesus had gotten even to him and he believed that Jesus could help his servant.

Luke 7:4-5: This shows us why this centurion was so respected among the Jewish people. It appears that while he was a Roman centurion of great status, he also **cared** about the Jewish people. For even the Jewish leaders wanted Jesus to help this centurion’s servant.

Luke 7:6a: Jesus agreed to help. Why? Because **Jesus cares!** We never observe Jesus being too busy to care for the needs of people who ask Him for help! *

Luke 7:6b: But as Jesus is on His way, it appears the centurion changes his mind a little bit. He says, “*I’m not worthy* of you, Jesus, to come into my house.” *

Q: What did he mean by that? A: Despite his status and how great others said he was, he knew enough about Jesus to know that Jesus was FAR greater! And he is right! *

Luke 7:7: Despite how powerful this centurion was, he believed Jesus had even more power, supernatural power even! For he believed Jesus could heal instantly with his word. *

Luke 7:8: Despite how much authority this centurion had, he believed Jesus had ultimate authority. This centurion commands his soldiers and they listen. Well, Jesus commands EVERYTHING! The centurion rightly has high regard for Jesus! *

Luke 7:9: Imagine causing Jesus to marvel! This centurion is simply living according to what Jesus said in our lesson from last week. “*Blessed are you poor (in spirit), for yours is the kingdom of God.*” (**Luke 6:20, Matthew 5:3**) He is coming to Jesus aware of his own unworthiness and also aware of Jesus’s greatness. * Jesus wants us to come to Him the same way!

Luke 7:10: So what happened to the dying servant? He was miraculously healed! Jesus didn’t even visit him! **Jesus cares!** *

Luke 7:11: Moving into a different city, Jesus is attracting crowds wondering what He is going to do next! * This is where we will meet the second person that encounters Jesus.

Luke 7:12: Jesus and His crowd meet another crowd: a funeral procession for a widow who has lost her only son.

Q: What is a widow? A: A woman who has lost her husband. * Back in Jesus's day, women couldn't work so when their husbands died they usually had no way of providing for themselves and needed their sons to care for them. But now this poor lady has lost her only son too!

Luke 7:13: And now she encounters Jesus and things are about to change.

Q: What did it say Jesus had for her when He saw her? A: Compassion! * That means **Jesus cares!** * He tells her to wipe away her tears. *

Luke 7:14: If you have ever been to a funeral, imagine someone coming up to the dead body in the casket and saying these words!

Luke 7:15: WOW! He who was dead sat up to speak! * Again, imagine being there! (**Teachers:** Consider acting this scene out with the kids. Bring in a large blanket and have four kids carry a kid pretending to be "dead" on the blanket to "Jesus" who says these words. Immediately the "dead" kid pops up and runs to meet his Mom!)

Jesus cares! Jesus has power to heal and power to even reverse death! And He only uses that power for good, because He is good!

Luke 7:16-17: Notice the response of the people. They were in awe of God, but with a little fear mixed in. * This is the right way to approach God! But they also rightly said that "*God has visited His people.*"

This is true because **God cares!** * Jesus is God the Son, the God-Man who was sent into this broken and messed up world to rescue us so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. (**John 3:16**). Miracles like these remind us how much God indeed cares for sinners like us. *

Key Point: **God cares** for you and wants you to believe in Him and trust in Him. One way that you show that you do is by **caring** for others! Do you **care** about others or do you mostly focus on yourself? * Who is someone that you can reach out to this week in such a way that shows you **care** for them?

Teachers: We encourage you to have some small group discussion with your kids after the lesson to challenge them to **care** for others. This is the perfect opportunity to spend a few minutes talking about your class Compassion child and how the kids can show they care by praying for them and giving to those jars which will help them have food, clothing, and learn about Jesus who **cares** for them too! We will leave bios of your kids in your room. * If you talk about giving, be sure to emphasize that we give not to EARN God's love, but we do it BECAUSE God first loved us. (**1 John 4:19**)

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 7:13
What did Jesus have
for the widow?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
In Luke 7:9, what
made Jesus marvel?

Read Luke 7:6
What did the centurion
mean by this?

