

The Nobleman's Son

John 4:43-54

Life of Jesus: Miracles

John 4:54 tells us that this was the second miracle that Jesus did when he came out of Judaea into Galilee. This seems to mean the second miracle that he did in this area in Galilee, because we are about to read that he did miracles in Jerusalem.

Some time has passed since Jesus did the miracle at Cana, and now he is returning to Galilee, where he grew up.

Discuss:

In John 4:44, he tells us that Jesus has said that a prophet does not have honor in his own country.

Talk to the students about what this means. If you knew someone for years, they were an ordinary friend of yours, and then people started saying this person was the son of God, would you be a little skeptical?

Would you think, I've known this person my whole life, that can't be true?

This is what some people thought, they had grown up with Jesus, and they found it hard to believe he was anything other than an ordinary person.

When Jesus came back to Galilee the people were curious. It says that many of these people from Galilee had been at the Passover feast in Jerusalem, and they saw all the things he did there. We aren't told what happened there, except that he performed miracles (John 2:23).

Jesus came back to Cana of Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. We can guess that people had heard what happened at the wedding.

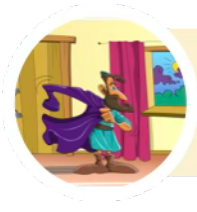
Discuss:

What would you do if you had been a servant at the wedding?

Would you tell people what happened?

Do you think people probably heard about what happened at the wedding?

There was a certain nobleman, or royal official whose son was sick at Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had come to Galilee, he came to Jesus and begged him to come heal his son.



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Discuss:

This man may have been royalty, or a ruler, or a government official.

Talk about what this man's life would have looked like.

This man was a nobleman; he would have been well known in his area.

He was probably wealthy; we know he had servants.

His son was dying; they did not have medicine to make the fever stop.

This would affect a person whether they were very rich or very poor, they would be very sad and upset if a son was about to die.

After he asked Jesus to come, Jesus made a statement. It is not clear if this remark was referring to the man, or if it was referring to the people that were around. But Jesus said, "unless you see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The man seems to show some faith, or desperation, because he then asks Jesus again to come before his child dies.

Jesus responds, but he does not go with him. He tells the man to go on his way, his son will live.

The man BELIEVED the word that Jesus had spoken, and he went on his way.

This man had traveled about 25 miles, or 40 kilometers to come see Jesus, so it took him a while to get back home. While he was heading home, his servants were traveling to tell him his son was alive, and they met him on the way.

When he met his servants, the nobleman asked them when his son began to get well.

It is interesting that he asked this question. The servants told him that his son began to get better the day before, at the seventh hour (this is between 1:00 - 2:00 in the afternoon). The father then knew that this was the exact same time when Jesus told him his son would live, and the time he had believed. After this, the man's whole household believed on Jesus. You can discuss how many people this may have been; the man was wealthy and probably had many servants, a wife, and other children.

Jesus in the Story



Jesus did not have to go to the man's house to heal his son.

He told the man to go on his way, and his son would live. The man believed the words that Jesus spoke, and he found out later it was that at that exact moment he believed when his son began to get well.

Faith doesn't make God move. Faith allows God to move. As soon as this man BELIEVED, his son's fever went away and he got well. After that, everyone in the man's household believed on Jesus.

Talk about what faith means. Ask the kids for their definitions; feel free to discuss. Then give the definition given in the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)

Now faith is the certainty of things hoped for, a proof of things not seen.

Faith is not hope, but an assurance. It's what you know, that you know, that you know, and you do not doubt it in your heart. Without faith we CANNOT please God.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

It is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

Faith gives us the assurance that God exists, and we believe that what he says is true.

Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

5. An Evening Visit

1. Who was Nicodemus?
2. What did Jesus say a person has to do to see the kingdom of God?
3. Why did God send his son into the world? (John 3:17)
4. Who are those that are condemned and why? (John 3:18)

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

6. Everything I've Ever Done

1. Why was the lady surprised that Jesus talked to her?
2. What water did Jesus tell the lady he had?
3. Who did the lady go tell about Jesus and what did she say?

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship him. God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

7. The Nobleman's Son

Read Hebrews 11:6

1. According to this verse, what do we have to do to please God?
2. What do we have to do to come to God?
3. Who does God reward?

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

8. Waiting for the Water

Read Romans 6

1. We are _____ to sin (v.2)
2. What should we not let rule in our bodies? (v.12)
3. We are not under what? (v.14-15)
4. What are we under instead? (v.14-15)
5. If you obey something, what do you become to the thing you obey? (v.16)

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



