

# Healing The Nobleman's Son

John 4:46-54

## **MEMORY VERSE**

JOHN 4:50

Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Several slips of paper with Bible promises printed on them (or pictures from books or magazines representing promises for younger children).

A current newspaper, chalk and a chalkboard.

A piece of paper with the word "TRAGEDY" printed on the top, turn the page so that "TRAGEDY" is upside down and print the word "BLESSING" on the new top.

A tape measure.

## **ATTENTION GRABBER!**

### **Mother May I?**

Play a game of "Mother May I?" with your class for a while. Be sure to make any children that respond to commands without saying, "Mother May I?" sit out the game.

After you have played for a while, ask the class some questions about the game, i.e.: "If the Queen of England were playing this game, would she have to say "Mother May I?" Would the President of the United States? Would Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in blank)? The correct answer to these questions is "yes," everyone must play by the rules if they are to play a game correctly.

Explain to the class that Jesus is no respecter of persons, all must come to Him with the same humility of heart, regardless of how rich, powerful, or famous they are. We are going to learn about a man who was important in this world, but had a tragedy in his life that led him to Jesus. Did he believe in Jesus? We will find out in today's lesson. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

## LESSON TIME!

Have you ever met someone who has lost all hope and was full of despair? Someone who seemed to be without any future and ultimately afraid of dying? That is a scary place to be in for anyone. We are going to meet someone like that today in our lesson.

This person, on his own, was totally helpless and without hope. Someone he loved very much was dying; it was his son. He had exhausted every means to bring hope and life to his dying son, but it all failed. He learned that Jesus is the only difference between life and death. Ultimately, he would come to understand that **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

### JOHN 4:46

**So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.**

Jesus had performed His first miracle in Cana of Galilee when He turned water into wine at a wedding feast (see John 2:1-11). The disciples witnessed first-hand the omnipotent power of Jesus. Jesus had now come back to the same city to minister to the people there. Perhaps he wanted to see the people from the wedding feast again to encourage their faith in Him. It is easy for us to forget the great things that Jesus has done in our lives. We need to be reminded often of the works of Jesus, to remember His faithfulness and promises for our lives.

## Promise List

Prepare several slips of paper with some of the promises God has made to His children from the Bible (for younger children use pictures from books or magazines). If you are unsure where to find verses, a good study bible usually has a list either in the front or back. There are also promise books that you can pick up very inexpensively at a local Christian bookstore.

Pass them out to some of the children in your class, and have them read or describe them to the class. Explain to the class that the Bible is full of promises to us as believers, and we need to be reminded of them often.

This nobleman was a very important person who held a place in government as a royal official, similar to that of a "little king." He was either an officer of the king or one who carried out the interests of Herod. Although this man held great power and wealth, his son became sick to the point of death. No one, rich or poor, is beyond or excluded from the hopeless despair in life or the assaults of sickness and death.

Could you imagine being a loving father whose son has become ill and will probably die? This had to be the most difficult time in this man's life. His power and money could not help him in this situation. In life, we may find ourselves facing situations that we cannot do anything about. We find ourselves completely helpless. Nothing we have can change the situation. It is when we realize that we are powerless to help ourselves that we can put our hope in Jesus. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

## JOHN 4:47

When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

This man was not from Cana, but a town some 25 miles away called Capernaum. He heard about Jesus coming to Cana, and he packed up and left to find Jesus. That may not sound very far to us today, but imagine how far it would be if you were on foot! One of the things we learn from this is that we need to take our problems to Jesus. If we just sit and feel sorry for ourselves, nothing will get done. We need to take our greatest needs to Jesus.

Maybe this man heard about Jesus and His power to do miracles. Jesus had healed a few people, and his fame was starting to spread. He had great respect for Jesus and came to Jesus himself when he could have sent a servant. This showed his humility. We all need to come to Jesus in humbleness of spirit.

This nobleman believed that Jesus could heal his son, though he was close to death. But, he limited Jesus' power because he wanted Jesus to come to his home and heal his son. Perhaps, he did not think Jesus could heal without being there. We need to be careful not to limit Jesus because of our lack of faith. We must trust Him completely without placing any limitations on Him.

## JOHN 4:48

Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe."

Though the nobleman had shown great respect to Jesus in coming so far, Jesus gave him a reproof. A faith built only on miraculous signs is not a complete faith (John 2:23-25). The real need for this nobleman and his family was salvation; healing must begin within our heart first. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

Though many of the people had heard of Jesus' great miraculous powers, they would not believe unless they saw them with their own eyes (Luke 4:23). The spiritual power of Jesus' words did not affect them; only the sensory power of miracles got their attention.

If we are going to please God, we must love and obey His word. In His Word we will find salvation. Signs and wonders will not save us; they only point us to Jesus. This miracle would be a sign to all the people, but best of all, it was a blessing for the nobleman.

#### **JOHN 4:49**

**The nobleman said to Him, "Sir, come down before my child dies!"**

The nobleman begged Jesus to come quickly, before it was too late. Sometimes, we ask something of the Lord and do not understand why He does not answer. But Jesus always answers our prayers; sometimes, He just does not do it the way we thought. He can say "yes" or "no," but He can also choose to say, "wait" to give us a chance to grow in our faith as we wait for Him. Jesus would heal the man's son, but He wanted to make sure his faith was completely in Him first.

Though he had legal authority over Jesus, he spoke to Him respectfully by addressing Him as "Sir." He humbly put himself under the loving mercy and care of Jesus. We must realize that position and possessions are meaningless in the eyes of Jesus because life here on earth is only temporary. Life in itself is hopeless, but hope and meaning are found in Jesus. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

## JOHN 4:50

Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." So the man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him, and he went his way.

We see the compassion of Jesus towards this man as He sees the man's pain of despair for his son. Jesus calmly replies to the nobleman's desperate request saying, "Go your way; your son lives."

The nobleman believed what Jesus said. He did not try to talk Jesus into coming with him, but he went his way. What a blessing to have that kind of faith. To simply take Jesus at His word, go our way, and watch what He does to help us. He obeyed Jesus and demonstrated his faith by returning home with a new hope.

Jesus told him that his son lived. Can you imagine the comfort this man must have felt to hear Jesus say these words. Just moments ago he was without hope, but with a few words, Jesus had restored his son and given him hope. We need to take the promises that the Lord tells us in His Word the same way. We have no need to worry or pace nervously when tough situations arise. All we have to do is trust in the promises of God. It is not enough for us to say we believe Jesus can take care of our problems, we must also act in obedience to His Word. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

## JOHN 4:51

And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told him, saying, "Your son lives!"

On the way home the nobleman must have looked for Jesus' promise every step of his journey. Trials cause us to cling to Jesus and His promises and grow in faith as we witness Jesus always keeps His promises. If you ever feel overwhelmed, allow Jesus to comfort you as only He can. Remember that every trial you endure

will later become an opportunity to help others who are suffering in similar hardships (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

As the nobleman met his servants, he soon found out that Jesus was true to His word. What a blessing and a comfort it must have been to the nobleman to know that his son was well. Good news will meet everyone who puts their hope in God's Word.

## Good News

Bring a newspaper to class and show it to your students. Read some of the headlines, and explain to the class that most of the news in the newspaper is bad news. Finding good news in a paper is rare.

Explain that the gospel means "good news." Ask the class to share what makes the gospel good news.

Ask for some volunteers to write some headlines on the chalkboard that declare the good news of the gospel.

### JOHN 4:52

Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him."

The faith of the nobleman is confirmed as he inquires about what hour his son was healed. The healing is no accident, for it occurs at the exact moment that Jesus makes His promise to him. Jesus is so kind and compassionate. This man sees first hand what Jesus can do for Him.

Anyone who has walked with the Lord for any length of time can bear witness of Jesus' working in their life. God is very active in our lives. Our faith will be strengthened as we read in His Word how He has helped others and remember what He has done in our

own lives. The nobleman realized two things: 1) the child's health was immediately restored, and 2) it happened at the exact time that Jesus told him his son would live.

### JOHN 4:53

So the father knew that it was at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, "Your son lives." And he himself believed, and his whole household.

Not only was the faith of the nobleman strengthened by the healing of his son, but also, the faith of his entire household was strengthened. They all believed in Jesus as the promised Messiah. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

This wonderful miracle, in a seemingly tragic situation, should remind us that God will work everything out for good that happens to us who love Him (Romans 8:28). Jesus turned a tragic circumstance into a blessing of salvation for the nobleman and his whole household. **Jesus believed is salvation received!** His Word has power to heal our hearts and bless our lives; so we must simply believe in His Word.

## Tragedy vs. Blessing

Take a piece of paper and write the word "TRAGEDY" in large black letters at the top of the page. Turn the paper upside down, and at the new top, write the word "BLESSING," in big black letters.

Ask the class to think of some examples from the Bible and their life today when God turned tragedy "upside down" (when tragedy turned into blessing). As each child shares, have them hold the paper with the "TRAGEDY" side up while they are sharing the tragic circumstances and the "BLESSING" side up as God turns things around.

## JOHN 4:54

This again is the second sign that Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

Jesus performed His first miracle in Cana of Galilee when He turned the water into wine at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11). Upon His second journey into Galilee, He again manifests His power to heal a boy. In Judea, Jesus had performed many miracles (John 3:2; 4:45), but being driven off, He came to minister to the people of Galilee.

These miracles testified to the fact that Jesus truly was the promised Messiah. His mighty power would reveal to all that He truly was the Son of God (John 2:11; 5:36). When you stop to think about it, Jesus could have dazzled the whole world with His awesome power. Only a small number of people experienced these two miracles in Galilee, but He would soon attract a large multitude of people. Jesus desired for everyone to come to Him for salvation, but many followed Jesus for the wrong reasons. Many people believed in Jesus with their minds, but not their hearts. Even Satan believes in God (James 2:19).

## Eighteen Inches?

Take a tape measure and measure several children from their foreheads to their mid-chest area (where their heart is). Tell each child how far that distance is.

When you have completed your measurements, explain to the children that we can believe with our minds but that is not what God really wants. Jesus needs to be believed with our hearts and given freedom to change our hearts. It is our hearts that matter to God, not our minds or intellects. Those "eighteen inches?" from our minds to our hearts are very important. We want Jesus to drop from our minds to our hearts.

We need to stop and examine our hearts and ask ourselves, "Have I truly believed in Jesus as the Son of God who died for my sins, who was buried, and rose again on the third day?" (1 Corinthians 15:4).

Saving faith is trusting completely in Jesus and the payment He made for our sins on the cross that we might be forgiven and have a personal relationship with Him. **Jesus believed is salvation received!**

You too can receive a new hope in your life, just like the nobleman did. Salvation is offered to everyone freely. How about you? Will you put your trust and hope in Jesus to save you?

## **PRAYER**

If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, lead them in a prayer of salvation. Be sure to note any first time commitments to the Lord.