

Level 1: Chapter 16: We believe in Jesus

**Write the word BELIEVE** on a piece of paper, and ask your child if they know what it means: It means that you accept that something is true, even if you don't fully understand it. We are able to believe in Jesus because people have seen all His miracles and heard His teachings. And because Jesus is the Son of God, we know that Jesus will only speak what is true.

**Read Para 1:** (If you have time to prepare- Hold up a box and tell your child what is in it. Ask them if they believe you. Would you lie to them? Show them that you told the truth. Now explain that you are only a human- how much more should they all believe Jesus, who is the greatest Teacher of all time and God's Son!)

To trust in someone or something is to have faith. We have faith if we believe. We have faith in Jesus if we believe what He said and did.

How would you react if Jesus said to love your neighbors and everyone? If Jesus said to be kind to everyone? If we believe Jesus and do what He tells us to, what will be our reward? (Heaven)

**READ REST OF CHAPTER.** It was each man's faith that Jesus looked for when HE healed him or his servant. Jesus heals only those people who believe in Him. We should always pray for the gift of faith to be strengthened in our hearts.

Listen to what Mark wrote in his gospel:

*Then they came to the town of Jericho. As Jesus was leaving there with his followers and a large crowd, a blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting by the road. <sup>4</sup>He heard that Jesus from Nazareth was walking by. The blind man cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, please help me!"*

*Many people scolded the blind man and told him to be quiet. But he shouted more and more, "Son of David, please help me!"*

*Jesus stopped and said, "Tell the man to come here."*

*So they called the blind man. They said, "Cheer up! Get to your feet. Jesus is calling you." The blind man stood up quickly. He left his coat there and went to Jesus.*

*Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?"*

*The blind man answered, "Teacher, I want to see again."*

*Jesus said, "Go. You are healed because you believed." At once the man was able to see again, and he followed Jesus on the road.*

Why did the blind man call out to Jesus? (HE believed Jesus would cure him) Why did Jesus cure Him? He loves him and he had faith in Jesus.

We should practice praying to have a stronger faith. We can thank God for His blessings (Thanksgiving); we can ask God for what we need (petition); we can praise Him for His goodness (praise); and we can pray for others in need (intercession).

**REREAD PARA 3:** Now listen to what Matthew wrote in his Gospel:

*Jesus went to the city of Capernaum. When he entered the city, an army officer came to Jesus and begged for help. <sup>6</sup> The officer said, "Lord, my servant is at home in bed. He can't move his body and is in much pain."*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the officer, "I will go and heal him."*

*The officer answered, "Lord, I am not good enough for you to come into my house. All you need to do is command that my servant be healed, and he will be healed. I myself am a man under the authority of other men. And I have soldiers under my command. I tell one soldier, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell another soldier, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and my servant obeys me.*

*When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He said to those who were with him, "I tell you the truth. This man has more faith than any other person I have found, even in Israel.*

*Then Jesus said to the officer, "Go home. Your servant will be healed just as you believed he would." And at that same time his servant was healed.*

Look at the picture on p64. What do you see? Why is the centurion kneeling? Is Jesus upset with him? How does the centurion look? What happened after this meeting?

Remember again, we must continue to pray to Jesus to grow our faith and learn. **READ last PARA and prayer.** Our faith makes Jesus happy. The reward for our faith is the promise of Heaven, where we will be with Jesus forever.