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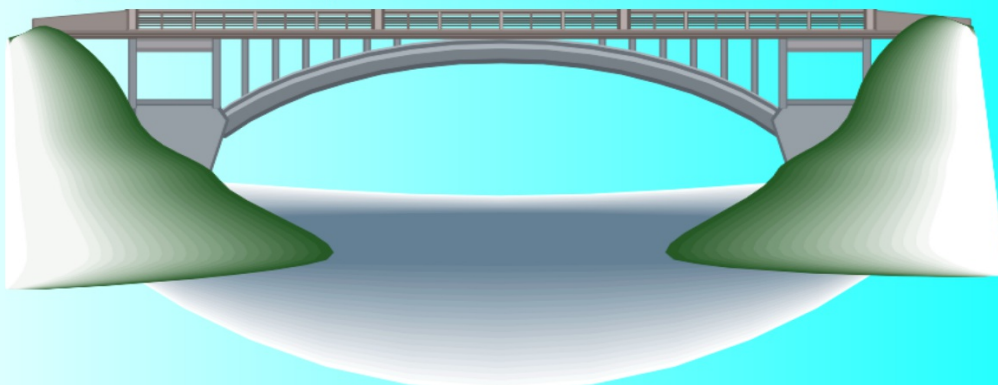
LO: To interpret the healing stories of Jesus



I can use evidence
from the Bible to
support my view

I can interpret
stories from the
Bible

I understand and
respect other
people's opinions



**WHAT
WOULD
JESUS
DO?**



**THINK
WHAT
WOULD
JESUS
DO**

Let's have a look at another one of Jesus' stories that he told.

We are going to have a look at The Centurion's Servant.

What is a Centurion?

A professional officer of the Roman Army.

Why is this a strange story for Jesus to tell? (Think about Romans in Jesus' time).

Let's have a look at the story (see PowerPoint on website). Once you have read that, if you have your own Bible, look at the full story of 'The Faith of the Centurion'. If you do not, look at the next slide.

The Faith of the Centurion

⁵ When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly."

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"

⁸ The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. ¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

**This is taken
from Matthew 8**

Christians interpret the Bible differently. Here are four responses to the miracle stories.

1

Jesus was a miracle-worker because he was God in the flesh. Christians today should also pray for healing miracles – Jesus is still alive and God is the same today as he was then. He can heal, and he does too.

2

Jesus was a miracle-worker and the son of God, so we should worship him. However, healing can take place through applying modern medicine too – and that is another way God heals today. Prayer is important, but so is using our skills and knowledge.

3

The stories of Jesus' miracles are not to be taken literally: the writers wanted to show how special Jesus was. Today we need to look for a spiritual meaning rather than a literal one. Here, Jesus shows that anyone can come to Jesus and be given new spiritual life.

4

Jesus did not heal everyone who was ill in Galilee when he was on Earth. Not everyone is healed when Christians pray – illness and dying are part of life. Jesus does promise the spiritual healing that forgiveness can bring – healing a person's relationship with God.

Task 1:

You are going to draw your own representation of 'The Faith of the Centurion'.
If you are struggling to draw, use the image underneath.



Under your picture, write your own interpretation and what message you think it gives out.

For example: The story of 'The Faith of the Centurion' to me, gives out a positive message. It does this by...

Use the sentence starters on the next slide to help you. These are some views from other Christians.

- *Jesus could heal anyone because he was God, and so...*
- *Faith is needed for healing, and so...*
- *Jesus wasn't prejudiced against Romans or servants, and so...*
- *Christians today can believe in miracles because...*
- *When someone is ill, asking Jesus for help (by praying) is important as well as medicine because...*
- *God can heal today, and often he uses our medical skills because...*
- *Prayer for healing does not seem to work for many people.
This does not mean... This might mean...*
- *Spiritual healing includes forgiveness, bringing people back into a relationship with God. This is important because...*

Task 2:

Using these ideas/sentence starters, can you now try and say how the story is still relevant in our lives today? Think back to when we learnt about Auschwitz and the terrible actions during WWII.

WAGOLL- I believe this story is still relevant in today's society because everyone should be treated equally. Even though it would be difficult to help someone who has been prejudice to someone, you still should try. Praying for someone is also a way to help heal...

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