

Day 3 Bible Story:

The Faith of the Centurion

For the Leader:

Bible Story: The Faith of the Centurion, taken from Matthew 8:5-13

In this story, we meet a Centurion who shows even more faith in Jesus than His own followers. Jesus' power pulls the Centurion's servant through when He performs a healing miracle. By putting our faith and trust in Jesus, we too can experience His great power!

Activity: Before the story, we'll be getting into character by making Centurion Helmets. It only takes a few simple supplies:

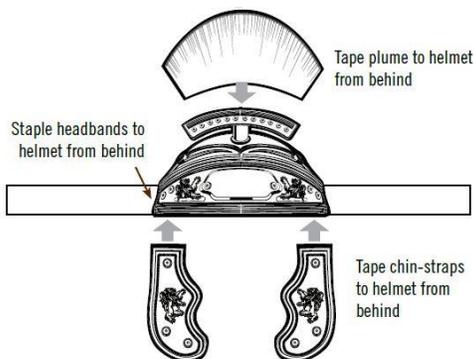
Supplies:

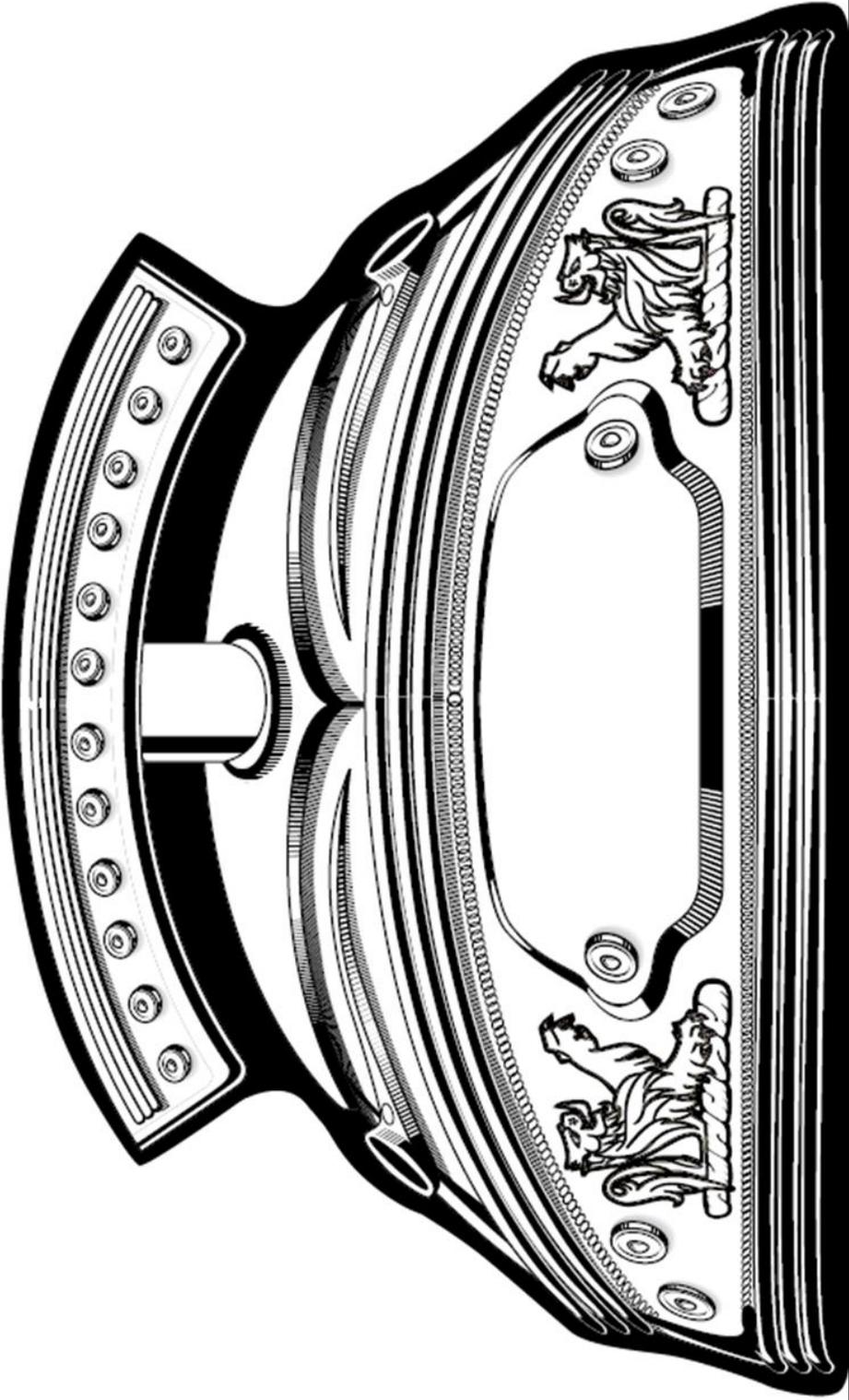
- Cardstock or other thick paper (2 sheets per helmet) with the template printed on it
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Scissors
- Tape or stapler

Bible Verse: Philippians 4:13 "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

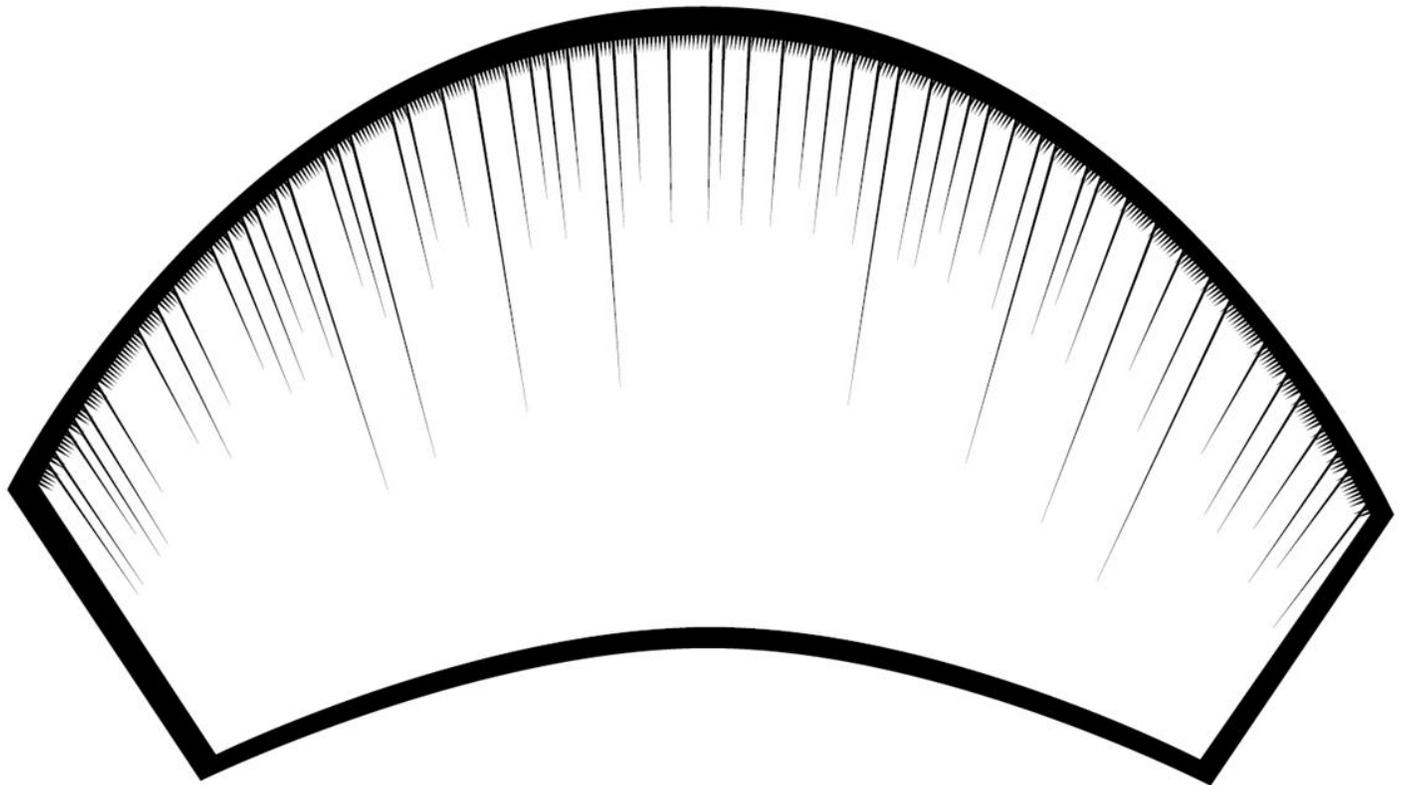
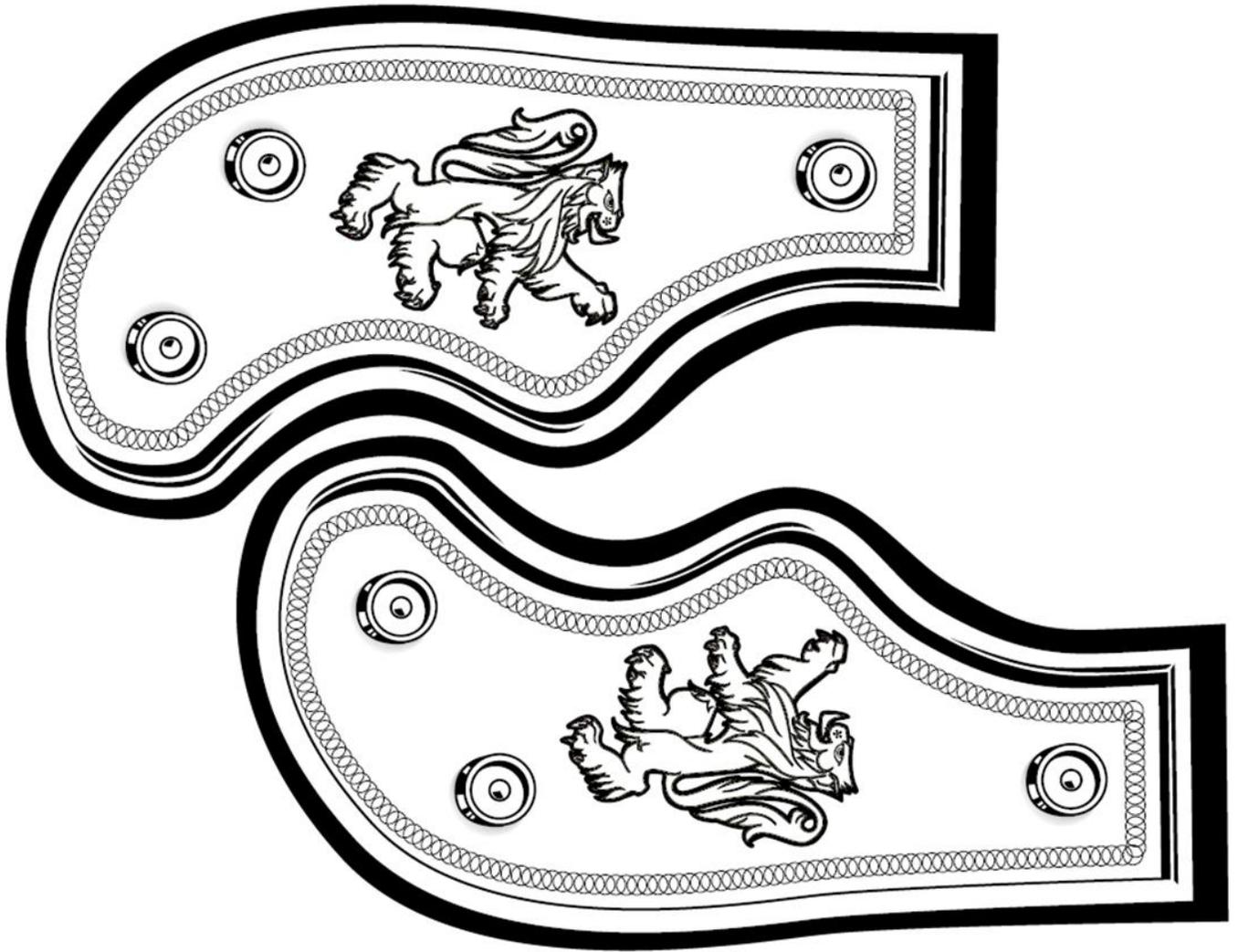
Before the Story:

Print the helmet template (pages 2-3, included below) onto cardstock, or if printed on regular paper, glue it onto a thicker paper. Explain that before we get to today's story, we have to get into character! Have the kids color in the helmet on the first page and put their name on the center plaque. Then they can color the second page with the top plume and chin straps. Cut out all the pieces (helmet, 2 headband pieces, 2 chin straps, and top plume). Assemble according to the diagram below:





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Say:

How about that video?! What a wet, sticky, but super fun mess they made! They did a pretty good job on their own, but once they tapped into the power of the sling shot, WOW! They trusted that the sling shot would hold and produce some pretty amazing power, and it sure did. I guess it goes to show that when we put our faith and trust in a mightier power, BIG things can happen! And that's exactly what our Bible story is about today. Let's get ready for this story – does everyone have their helmet? Great. Helmets on! Here we go.

In the book of Matthew, chapter 8, we find Jesus teaching the crowds of people that followed Him and performing miracles along the way. Word was spreading about this great teacher and about His ability to heal people. Even people who did not believe in God had heard about Jesus' miracles. He was entering a town called Capernaum, when a very important man came up to Jesus. This man was called a Centurion. A Centurion was a commander in the Roman army, who was in charge of 100 soldiers. These soldiers did exactly what their commander told them to do, exactly when he told them to do it. This was a very powerful and respected man in Jesus' day! He had heard about the miracles that Jesus did, and believed that Jesus could help him. You see, at that very moment, this Centurion had a servant at home who was gravely ill. He couldn't even move, and was near death. The Centurion was so worried about his servant that he would do anything to help him. He sat by the servant's bed, feeling totally helpless. But then news came that Jesus, the great healer, was heading into town! The Centurion knew that this was what he needed! If only he could get to Jesus, he had faith that his servant could be healed. Not only was he important in his town, but he was also a gentle, caring man with a great big bold faith!

So, as Jesus entered Capernaum, the Centurion approached Him. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home and can't move. He is suffering so much."

Jesus asked, "Should I come and heal him?"

At this, the Centurion humbled himself and responded, "Lord, I am not good enough to have you come into my house. But just say the word, and my servant *will* be healed. I myself am a man under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my orders. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my worker, 'Do this,' and he does it. So, if you just say the words, 'Be healed,' my servant will be made well."

When Jesus heard this, He was totally amazed at the Centurion's bold faith. He knew that all Jesus had to do was say the word and his servant would be healed. Jesus turned to the crowd of people around Him and said to them, "I haven't found any people in all of Israel

who believe in Me as much as this man does. I'm telling you anyone who believes in and follows God, will be in heaven.”

Then Jesus turned to the Centurion, told him to go back home and said, “Because you believed, it will be done for you.” At that very moment, the Centurion’s servant was healed!

Wow! That is incredible! Here was a man with plenty of money and authority, who probably tried to help his servant in lots of ways on his own. But he knew that he did not have the power to heal this man, so instead he sought out the only One who could truly heal his servant – Jesus. Sometimes in life we think we are strong enough, or good enough, or smart enough, or have enough power to do things all on our own, but in reality, if we humble ourselves to Jesus, and seek His help, we will find that **Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through!** Let’s pray...

Pray:

Dear God, we are so in awe of Your awesome power! Please help us to have bold faith like the Centurion, so that in life’s hard times, we know we can turn to you for help and healing. You are truly the God of miracles, and we thank You for Your powerful presence in our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.