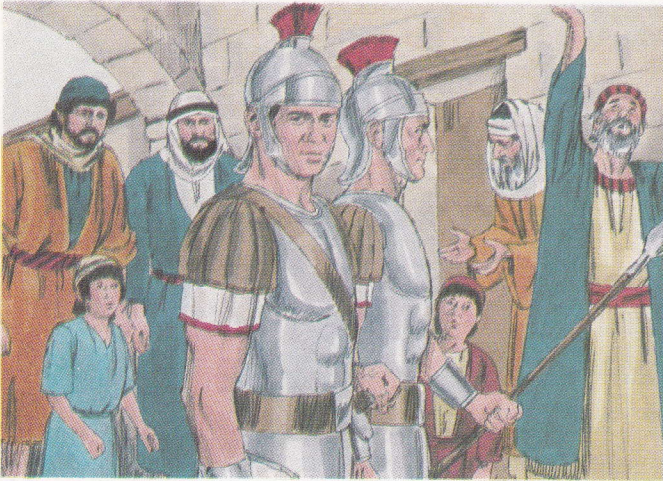
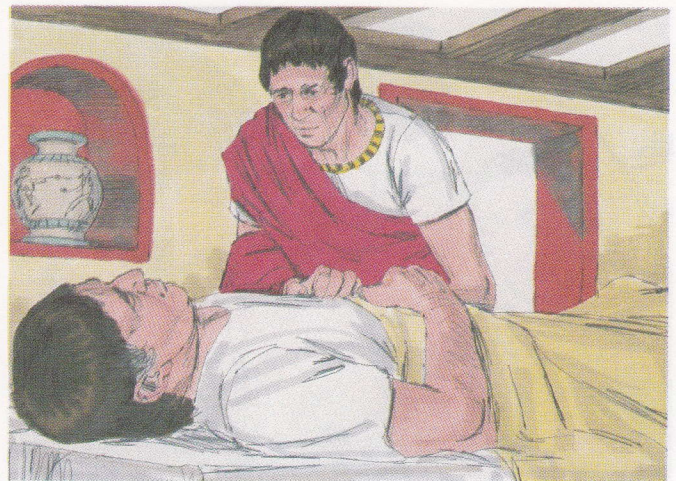


The Centurion's Faith



1 In the time of Jesus, Rome ruled over the land of Palestine. Roman soldiers were stationed at different places throughout the country to keep the peace.



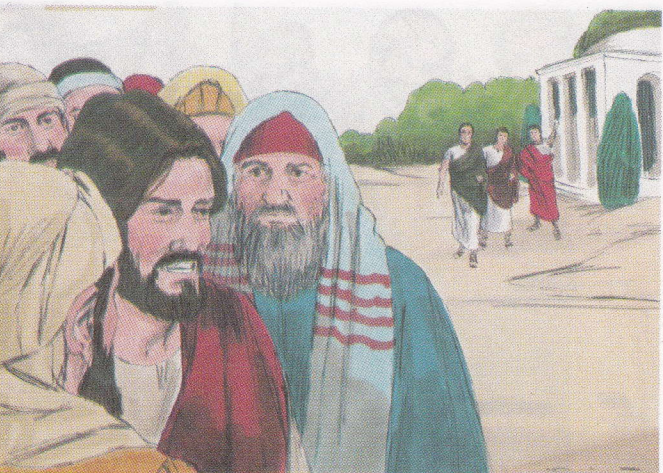
2 A certain centurion lived in Capernaum. (A centurion was an officer in charge of one hundred soldiers.) This centurion had a servant who was very dear to him. The servant was very sick.



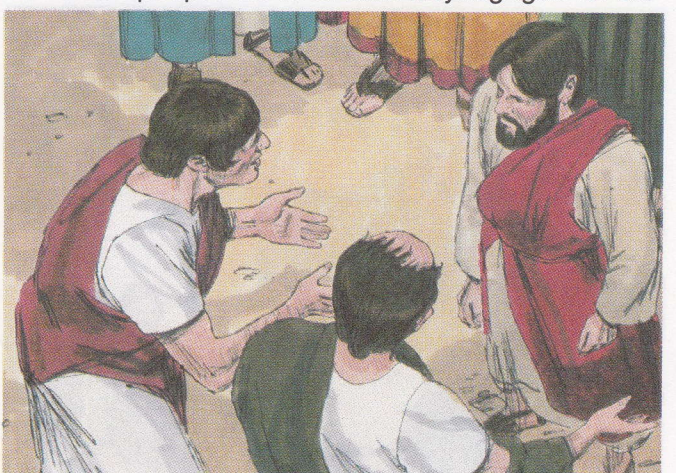
3 When the centurion heard of Jesus, he asked some of the Jewish leaders of the city to go and talk to Jesus for him.



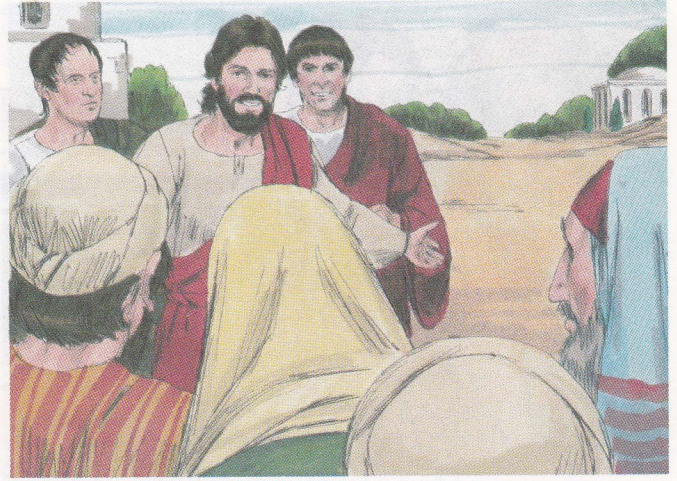
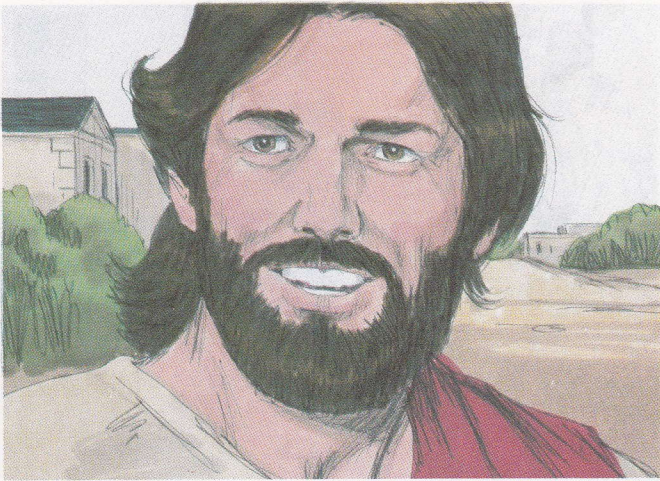
4 These leaders urged Jesus to heal the centurion's servant. They said, "This man deserves your help. Although he is a Gentile, he loves the Jewish people. He even built a synagogue for us."



5 So Jesus went with the Jewish leaders to the centurion's house. When they were not far off, the centurion saw them coming and sent out some friends. "Give Jesus this message," he told them.

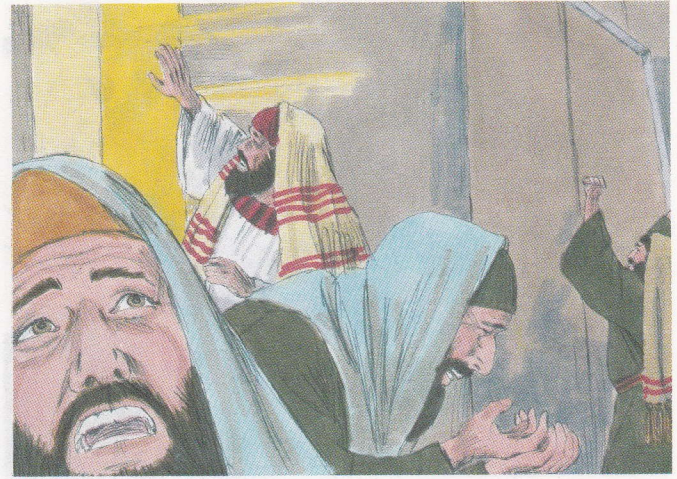
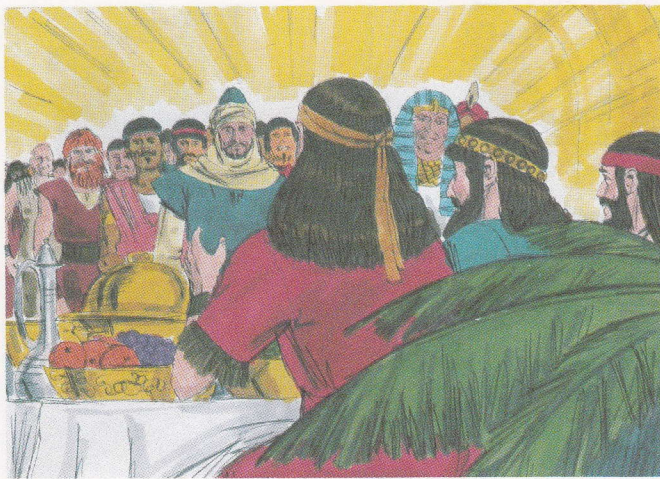


6 The message said: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my house. This is why I sent other people instead of coming myself. If you just say the word, I know my servant will be healed."



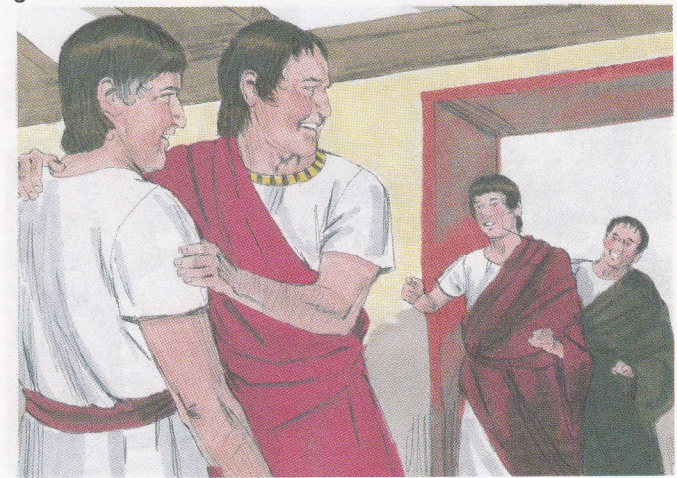
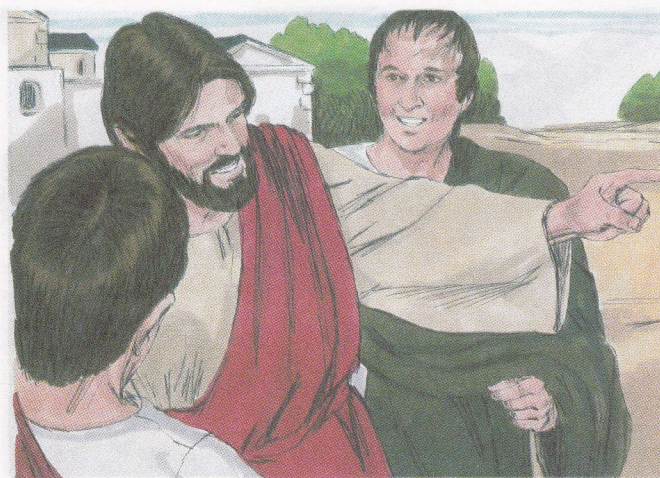
7 "I also am a man with authority," the message continued. "If I say to one of my soldiers, 'Go!' he goes. If I say to another, 'Come!' he comes. If I say to my servant, 'Do this!' he does it."

8 Jesus was very surprised at the centurion's words. He turned to those who were following him and said, "I have not found such faith as this even among the people of Israel!"



9 Jesus went on, saying, "Many people from all the world will come to sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for the banquet in the kingdom of God."

10 "But the sons of the kingdom who ought to be there will be thrown out of the banquet hall into the darkness outside. There they will cry out and grind their teeth."



11 Jesus said to the friends whom the centurion had sent to him, "Tell the centurion that it shall be done for him as he has believed."

12 Then Jesus sent the centurion's friends back to the house. When they got there, they found that the servant was already well!