



BACKGROUND

The mass is filled with words and actions that come from the scriptures. Diving into these scriptures help us to understand more deeply the incredible mystery we celebrate in the Eucharist.

This activity draws on the story of Centurions servant and its connection to the words we say in the Mass just before moving forward to receive communion - 'Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed'. It also breaks open what it means to be 'living tabernacles' - walking, talking 'homes' for Jesus Christ.

YOU WILL NEED:

PART 1

The following pages ready to display:

- Picture of the centurion
- Words of the scripture - "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed."
- Words from the Mass - "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."
- Pictures of tabernacles
- Pictures of the children

PART 2

- Store bought cup cake boxes (1 per child)
- Small crosses printed on coloured paper (pre-cut if time is short)
- Sharpies (marking pens)
- Glue



INSTRUCTIONS

- PART 1 - Begin with breaking open the scripture and discussing
- PART 2 - Follow up with the tabernacle activity

DISCUSSION

Question: (Show them the picture of a centurion) What do we know about Roman centurions? What does the word Centurion also sound like?

Answer: A Centurion is: a Roman - part of the people ruling the land of Jesus, the Jewish people didn't like them, they were in charge of 100 soldiers, their helmets made them easy to recognize (especially on the battle field). When they gave orders, everyone obeyed! So they knew about authority and responsibility.

Teach: There's a story in scripture about a time Jesus met a centurion (Read Matthew 8:5-10,13)

Question: What stands out to you about this story? (Listen to the families responses). Are there any words that sound familiar?

Answer: 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed.' We say something similar just before we walk up to receive Jesus body and blood at Mass: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."



LIVING TABERNACLE ACTIVITY

Question: In the scripture, what does the centurion mean when he says 'come under my roof'?

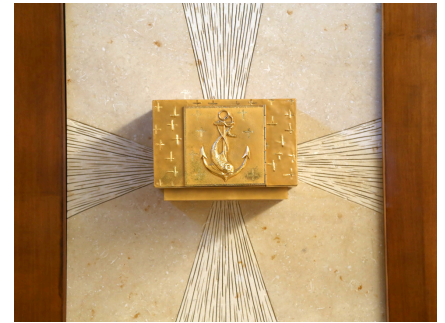
Answer: *He means to 'come into his home.'*

Question: So what do we mean when we say this at mass? What 'roof' are we talking about?

Answer: *A roof usually refers to a home. But, in the context of the Mass, the 'roof' we're referring to is the roof of our bodies. When we receive the bread and the wine at Mass, we believe that the bread is Jesus' body and the wine is Jesus' blood and so we become a 'home for Jesus' when we receive the bread and the wine.*

Question: Another place that is Jesus' home is a tabernacle. Does anyone know what a tabernacle is? (Show them the pictures of the tabernacles)

Answer: *A tabernacle is a place where the priest places the consecrated bread - the Body of Christ. Another way to think about these tabernacles is that they are 'homes for Jesus', places where Jesus 'lives'. They look like a big golden box and usually have a red light next to it to show that Jesus is inside. (If you're in a Church, point out the tabernacle). Artisans use precious materials and all their skill and creativity to make these as unique and beautiful as they can. Tabernacles are special, sacred places in our churches.*



Teach: Sometimes, when we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, we are called 'living tabernacles'.

Question: (Show the picture of the children) What is the difference between the tabernacles and the 'living tabernacles - that is, the children who've received the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus in the Eucharist

Answer: *(Families will suggest all the wonderful things children do: love other, hug, pray, be kind, help, share, create etc)*

Question: And who created these wonderful 'living tabernacles'?

Answer: *God created us! God poured all of his love and creativity to make us as unique and wonderful as we can be. When we received the Body and Blood of Christ Jesus in the Eucharist we go out to share God's love in all that we do!*

Go on to PART 2



INTRODUCTION

Now that we know that we are 'Living Tabernacles' when we receive Jesus in the Eucharist at Mass. Lets make our own tabernacle boxes that think about how we become a 'home' for Christ Jesus.

YOU WILL NEED:

PART 2

- Store bought cup cake boxes (1 per child)
- Small crosses printed on coloured paper (pre-cut if time is short)
- Scissors
- Sharpies (marking pens)
- Glue

YOU WILL NEED:

- Cut out the paper crosses. You can either get the children to cut them out or cut them out beforehand to save time during activity.
- With glue, stick the cross on the inside of the back wall of the box so that it can be seen through the plastic window.
- Next, use the sharpies or permanant markers to draw a picture of yourself or your name over the plastic window. You can add as much detail to the design as you want.
- Assemble the box
- Now you should have a picture of yourself with the cross in the background as a reminder that Christ Jesus is within you when you receive Him in the Eucharist!



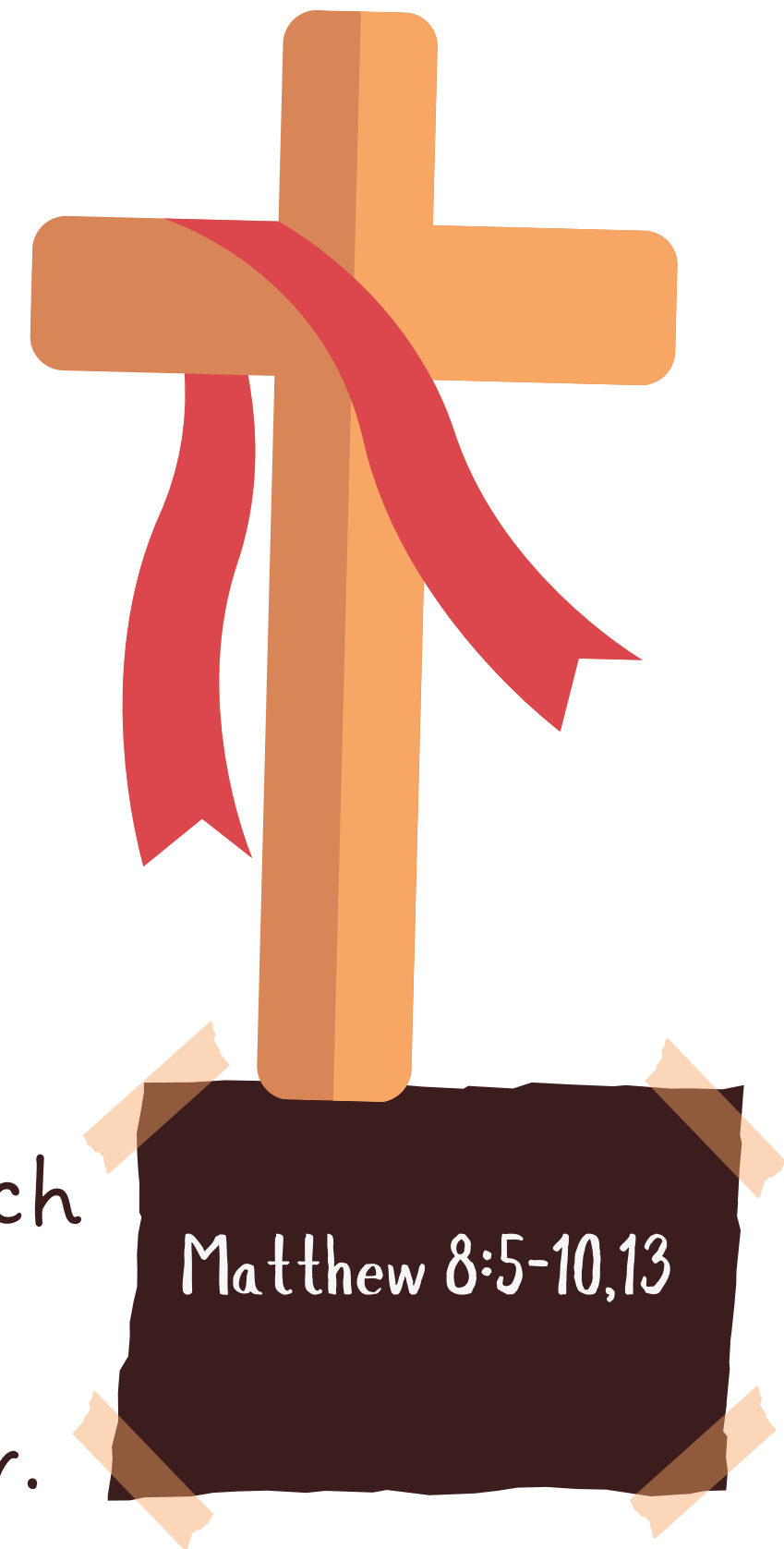


When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, 'Lord, my servant is lying at home paralysed, in terrible distress.'

And Jesus said to him, 'I will come and cure him.'

The centurion answered, 'Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, "Go", and he goes, and to another, "Come", and he comes, and to my slave, "Do this", and the slave does it.'

When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, 'Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. And to the centurion Jesus said, 'Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.' And the servant was healed in that hour.





"Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant will be healed."

"Lord, I am not
worthy that you
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