

POINT ➔ **WE TRUST
GOD.**

Open the Bible to Matthew 8, and show it to the children. SAY: **God's special book, the Bible, tells us about an important man in the Roman army. This man had a servant with a big boo-boo. The servant was paralyzed—he couldn't move.**

Hold *Penny the Puppy*, and interact with her as you read the script below.

Leader: **Penny, if you were sick or paralyzed, would you want Jesus to come to your house to make you feel better?**

Penny: **That would be really cool! But you know what? I hurt my ear once, and I prayed to Jesus. He made it feel so much better, even though he didn't walk into my house. Kids, what do you think? How can Jesus heal you even if he's far away?** Wait for answers.

Leader: **The Bible tells us that Jesus said he'd go to the army man's house and heal the paralyzed man. The army man trusted Jesus**

so much that he said Jesus didn't have to come to his house—Jesus only had to say he was healed, and the servant would be healed.

Penny: **Wow! How did he know Jesus could do that? He must have known that ➔ WE TRUST GOD.**

Leader: **Jesus was amazed by the man and told all his friends that this man really believed and trusted God. When the army man finally got back to his home, he saw that his servant was all better. Jesus healed him from far away. The Roman army man trusted God, and his servant got better.**

Penny: **Kids, what boo-boos do you need to trust God to make better?**

Pray with children about the things they're trusting God for.

SAY: **The Roman army man knew Jesus could heal his servant even though the servant never saw Jesus. We can't see Jesus, but ➔ WE TRUST GOD to answer our prayers.**



POINT ➔ **WE TRUST
GOD.**

SAY: Today we heard about the paralyzed servant who lived in the Roman army man's house. Paralyzed people might have legs that don't work or an arm that won't move.

We're going to pretend that we're paralyzed. Help children get into groups of three. Tell them that everyone in their group will be paralyzed in some way. Assign one person in each group who'll pretend to have paralyzed legs; one with paralyzed arms; and one with hands that don't work.

SAY: I'm going to set the **Bubble Ball** across the room. Your group needs to figure out how you can work together to get to the ball and bounce it. You'll all need to help each other, since all of you are paralyzed in some way.

Have groups take turns getting to the ball. After all the groups have bounced the *Bubble Ball*, **SAY:** ➔ **WE TRUST GOD, just like you trusted your partners to help you.**

ASK: What was it like to be paralyzed?

How did your partners help you?

What are some ways God can help us?

SAY: We all need help sometimes, and when we do, ➔ **WE TRUST GOD to help us! He can help us just as he helped the servant get better.**

POINT ➔ **WE TRUST
GOD.**

SAY: One of the ways we can show that ➔ **WE TRUST GOD** is to pray to him about the boo-boos we have or people we know who need God's help.

ASK: What are some things you pray about?

Give children paper and *Pip-Squeaks Markers*. Have them draw pictures of their boo-boos and people they'd like to pray for and trust God to help. These pictures will become their prayer lists.

Gather the children in a circle, and ask them to pray for one or two of the things they drew on their papers.

When kids have finished praying, together **PRAY: Thank you, God, that we can trust you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

SAY: Isn't it nice when ➔ **WE TRUST GOD** with our prayers? Just as the Roman army man did, we can turn to God when we need help. We know he can do anything!

POINT ➔ **WE TRUST
GOD.**

SAY: The Roman army man understood that ➔ **WE TRUST GOD.**

There's a Bible verse that helps us remember to trust God. It's in the Bible, God's special book. It says: "[Jesus said,] 'Trust in God, and trust also in me.'" Say that with me. "[Jesus said,] 'Trust in God, and trust also in me.'"

Now let's add some music and we can sing this verse as a song. Lead children in singing the words below to the tune of ● "Skip to My Lou" (instrumental) (track 3) on the **CD**. Have children stand up and march around as they sing.

SING:

**Jesus said, "Trust in God."
Jesus said, "Trust in God."
Jesus said, "Trust in God,
And trust also in me."**

(Repeat 2x.)

ASK: Tell about some people you trust, and why you trust them.

What things make God a good person to trust?

SAY: God always does the right thing and wants what's best for us. He loves us! That's why ➔ **WE TRUST GOD.**

POINT ➔ **WE TRUST GOD.**

SAY: Let's use our *Bubble Ball* to play a game that will help us learn how to trust God.

Have children sit in a circle. Hand the ball to one child, and ask that child to hide the ball while the rest of the children close their eyes. After the Hider hides the ball and returns to the circle, tell children to open their eyes.

SAY: In the Bible, we heard about the paralyzed servant and how Jesus healed him. Jesus didn't need to see the man to heal him. The army man trusted that Jesus could heal his servant even though he couldn't see Jesus do it. He showed us ➔ WE TRUST GOD.

ASK: Do you believe the *Bubble Ball* is somewhere in this room? Why?

SAY: Let's ask some questions to see if we can figure out where the ball is. Encourage children to ask the Hider yes-or-no questions such as: Is the ball under something? Is the ball behind something? Can you see the

ball from here? Then let the children try to find the ball. When they return to the circle, remind children that even though they couldn't see the ball, it was still in the room. Repeat the game a few times, letting several children have turns as the Hider.

SAY: Even though we can't see God, he's still here.

ASK: What are some things you believe Jesus can do, even though you can't see him?

SAY: God watches over us, listens to us, and forgives us. That's why ➔ WE TRUST GOD, even though we can't see him.