



# Jesus Heals a Little Girl

**Goal:** To explore the miraculous power of Jesus.

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Jesus was a person of love and compassion. His care for others burst forth in the healing stories; Jesus brought new life where life appeared to be gone forever.

When Jairus, a synagogue leader, begged Jesus to come because his daughter was about to die, Jesus went with him. When word came that the daughter had died, Jesus said, "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting" (v. 36; CEB). This was a word of hope and encouragement in the midst of despair.

At the house, Jesus said the daughter was just sleeping. But people laughed at him (v. 40). Then Jesus spoke the word of life to the little girl: "Young woman, get up" (v. 41). Suddenly, the twelve-year-old "got up and began to walk around" (v. 42).

Jesus healed the girl in response to the father's plea and through the faith of the father in the power and love of Jesus. When confronted with word of his daughter's death, the father continued in Jesus' word, in faith: "Don't be afraid; just keep trusting." This was all he could do, and he continued to trust in Jesus' grace. When the daughter got up, gratitude flooded his heart!

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

Engage the children in hearing this story from the perspective of the different characters in the story: Jairus, Jesus, the people in the crowd, and Jairus's daughter. In doing this, they will be able to name the variety of perspectives, reactions, and emotions of the people. This activity will help the children engage with the story and relate to their own experiences of being sick or knowing people who are ill and, like Jairus's daughter, want to be healed.

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

Jairus came to Jesus seeking healing for his sick daughter. Children in your group will be able to talk about people they know who are sick and would like to be healed. Some may have experience with relatives or friends who are critically ill or who have died. Be prepared for a question like, "Does God still heal people today?" Help them know that, when they pray to God for someone, healing may come in different ways—like comfort or care. Healing may come in strength to manage pain. Help children know that God's love and care is always with people who are sick.

*O God, there is nothing worse than losing a child. Give us the faith to call on you in our darkest hour. Amen.*



## Supplies

Music & Melodies  
(MM) 2023–2024

Stories, Colors & More  
(SCM) i–iv, 9, 9a, 9b, 16,  
20

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

story audio (see p. vii)

white cloth

candle

## Responding

### Extra

copies of **Grace Notes**  
(GN) 1 and GN 2

## GATHERING IN GOD’S GRACE

Post **SCM i–ii**, “Your Visual Schedule,” to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii–iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG** **T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

### Welcoming and Preparing

**LG** **A** **B** **L**

Greet the children by name and with the words “Christ is risen!” Prompt the children to respond, “He is risen indeed!” These words are spoken during Eastertide, the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost.

Invite the children to help prepare the worship space. Provide a Bible, a candle, a white cloth (white is the liturgical [church] color for Eastertide), and **SCM 9a** and **9b**.

Ask some children to help prepare today’s “Responding in Gratitude” activities, and suggest that one or two prepare to lead today’s singing.

Invite children to make a bedroom in a Bible-times house using what is available in the room. This will be the storytelling area.

Take time to talk with the children about what is happening in their lives. Point out the photos of hospital items. Ask the children:

- ▼ When have you been sick?
- ▼ Who helped you to get well?
- ▼ What do you think today’s story might be about?

Tell the children that today’s story is about Jesus healing a girl.

### Singing

**A** **MS**

Play and sing “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”—**MM 16**; **SCM 20**. Suggest that the children sway from side to side or march in place while singing.

### Praying

**L**

Turn on the candle. Invite the children to repeat your words and actions as you pray:

O God, you heal the sick, (*touch head as if you have a headache*) /  
you straighten the bent and crooked, (*bend down and then slowly come up*) /  
and you raise us all to new life. (*stretch arms to the sky*) /  
Be with us in our time together. (*make a circle by holding hands or touching elbows*) /  
Amen. /

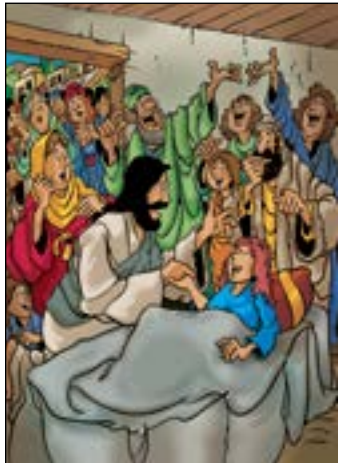


**L** *When telling a story, slow down and speak clearly. Above all, have fun! If you enjoy the story, the children will too.*

### Preparing to Hear the Story **L**

Explain that Jesus' days were busy teaching his disciples as well as the people who came to hear him. He also healed people who had all kinds of illnesses.

Invite the children to play the parts of Jesus, one or more disciples, and people in the crowd. Jesus is in the midst of the crowd. Each disciple tells a person in the crowd that Jesus healed someone. The message gets spread one to another. When all have been told, act the part of Jairus and rush into the crowd to ask Jesus to heal your daughter. Move into the "bedroom."



Today's story can be found in *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com).

### Hearing the Story **L B**

Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Mark 5. Read **SCM 9** or listen to the story audio. Conclude the reading by saying, "Word of wisdom, Word of grace," and prompt the children to say, "Thanks be to God." Place the open Bible on the worship center.

Explain that, today, everyone will work together to help to tell the story. Read the story again.

Invite volunteers for the following roles: Jesus, Jairus, Jairus's daughter, and a servant. For larger groups, add other roles, such as Jairus's wife, servants, disciples, and mourners.

As you tell the story this second time, encourage the children to listen carefully to the story so that they will be able to act out their parts. Facial expressions and body language are important and will add to the drama of the story. Pause where necessary to cue actors with a look or a nod, allowing enough time for action to take place.

### Reflecting on God's Grace

Refer to the picture of Jesus and the little girl on **SCM 9**, and discuss what you see. Comment that Jesus does some pretty amazing things. Sometimes people called Jesus' works miracles. Explain that the word *miracle* comes from the Latin word *mirari*, which means amazing or marvelous.

Discuss together:

- ▼ I wonder, "What do you think is the most wonderful thing about this story?"
- ▼ I wonder, "How might Jairus have felt when he heard that his daughter was already dead and then Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid, just believe and your daughter will get better'?"
- ▼ I wonder, "What do you think it might have been like when Jesus took the dead child's hand and told her to rise, and she did?"



### Singing

MS

Play and sing “Jesus Says God Cares for Us”—**MM 12; SCM 16**. Walk in a circle, switching directions each time they sing, “. . . each and every day.” Turn off the candle.

## RESPONDING IN GRATITUDE

Select activities appropriate for your group and for the time available.

### Claiming God’s Grace

B MS C

Make a masking-tape square on the floor. Invite the children to stand around it. Name a person in the story and ask a question. Invite children to imagine being that person and answer the question. When they are ready, they jump into the square, answer the question, and jump out again. Encourage more than one answer to each question.

- ▼ Jairus, why did you come to Jesus for help?
- ▼ Jairus’s servant, what did you think when Jesus came to the house even though the little girl was already dead?
- ▼ Jairus’s wife, what do you think of Jesus now?
- ▼ Jairus’s daughter, how did you feel when you woke up?
- ▼ Disciples, what did you learn today?

### Celebrating God’s Grace

B MS

Play a game of freeze tag. Ask a volunteer to be Jairus. Tell the other children that they are the family and friends of the sick little girl, and that they are running around afraid of what might happen to her. Let Jairus try to tag people as they run. If someone gets tagged, they are frozen until someone who is not frozen touches (heals) them. When everyone is frozen, or after a little while, allow another volunteer person to be Jairus. Play until all who want to be Jairus have had an opportunity.

### Offering God’s Grace

F LG B T TD SD

Create a group collage that encourages people to reach out with God’s healing love.

Paint one hand of each child with poster paint or fingerpaint and invite the children to place their hand carefully on mural paper. Have them lift it off slowly. Clean their hands with wet wipes or soap and water.

While the handprints dry, have the children draw pictures or cut pictures from magazines that show places and people in our world that need God’s healing love. Glue them to the collage.

Talk together about ways the children might reach out to help. Print their ideas around the pictures. Display the collage where the congregation can be inspired by it.

**TD** *Some children struggle with touch and feeling messy. Give advance warning and provide options such as crayons or markers for drawing. Allow the child to wash their hands often if needed.*



**GN 2 Solution:**

No tear  
Closed mouth  
Sheep  
Bird  
Head covering on adult  
Palm tree  
Hair  
Head covering on child  
Beard  
Jesus' sleeve/sheet

**Extra Activity**

Distribute copies of **GN 1** and pencils. Say, “Just like Jesus, we can reach out to bring God’s healing love to the world. Circle the things that you have done.”

In the space provided, encourage the children to draw one loving action they could do this week. Invite each person to show the other children what they did.

Hand out copies of **GN 2** and crayons or markers. Invite the children to find the ten differences in the two pictures. While they work, wonder about differences between trusting Jesus and believing what others say.

**LOVING AND SERVING GOD**

Invite the children to gather, and lead them in cleaning up the worship space.

Sing “Jesus Says God Cares for Us”—**MM 12; SCM 16.**

Give the children an opportunity to tell any new insights they have had from today’s story. Ask questions such as:

- How did you feel when you learned that Jesus brought the girl back to life?
- How would you feel if Jesus hadn’t brought her back to life?
- What will you remember about this story?

Lead children in this echo prayer:

God, sometimes we are sick and afraid /  
and we need you with us. /  
Thank you for your healing presence /  
that never ever leaves us. /  
We can trust the power /  
of Jesus’ love and compassion /  
and we are grateful. /  
Amen. /

Dismiss each of the children with the charge: “(Name), go forth this day, showing love and care to others.”



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so you can send the Grace Sightings link, or invite them to visit [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads). Remind the parents and caregivers about the story audio (see p. vii).





What loving thing could you do this week?







