



Jesus Heals a Little Girl

(based on Mark 5:21-24, 35-43)

Jesus and the disciples stepped out of the boat onto the sandy shore. Crowds of people came to meet them. A man named Jairus (JI-ruhs), a leader of the local synagogue, came up to Jesus and fell at his feet.

“Jesus, can you come?” Jairus begged. “My daughter is sick and I think she’s going to die. Please come and lay your hands on her so that she will get better and live.”

Jesus went with Jairus, but they could not move very quickly because of the huge crowd. So many people wanted to see Jesus.

Finally they got through the crowd and walked as fast as they could toward Jairus’s house. Before they arrived, servants met them with terrible news.

“Your daughter is dead!” they sobbed. “Don’t bother Jesus anymore.”

Jairus began to weep. They were too late to save his little girl.

“Don’t be afraid, Jairus,” Jesus said. “Just believe and your daughter will get better.”

At Jairus’s house, everyone was weeping and wailing for the dead girl.

Jesus pushed past the crying people. “Why are you making all this noise?” he asked. “The child is not dead; she is just sleeping.”

Everyone laughed at Jesus because they knew that the little girl was dead. She had even stopped breathing. Jesus went into the room where the child lay. He asked everyone to leave except for his disciples and the girl’s parents.

Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, “Little girl, get up!”

Immediately, the girl got up and began to walk around. Her family was amazed. They jumped up and down for joy.

“Let’s get something to eat!” said Jesus. “Your daughter is better and needs food.” So they all shared a meal and gave thanks to God.



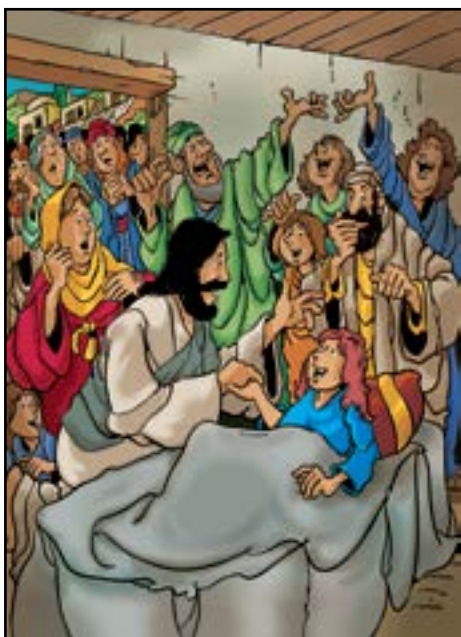
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- Imagine what it would be like to have lived in a time when medical supplies were not as close as your pharmacy or grocery store.
- Read the story again and make faces or body postures that reflect the emotions in this story. Talk together about how the emotions change throughout the story.



Responding to God's Grace

- Do an internet search for “boo boo bunny instructions” and make a boo boo bunny with a soft washcloth and rubber bands to use at home. Make some extra boo boo bunnies and give them to an agency that works with children.
- Make a list of healthcare professionals, talking about the different roles each professional plays. Talk about friends or extended family who serve in this way. Suggest that your children or their friends may serve in this way when they grow up. Talk about the steps needed to achieve this goal.
- If there is a children's hospital nearby, find ways your family can support children and families of children who have a long-term illness.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Have a healthy snack together. Pray to God for health and healing for those that need help. Thank God for your health and the health of others around you.
- What are rituals of care for people in your family when someone doesn't feel well? Are there special foods, beverages, blankets, or other items used to express care? Give thanks that your family is a place where people receive comfort when they are sick.
- Pray this prayer:

God, thank you for healing us when we are sick and for keeping us healthy. Help us to live in healthy ways. Amen.