



Jesus Heals a Little Girl

Goal: To recognize that Jesus cared about a worried father and his little girl.

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, 14, 20

basic supplies
(see p. vii)

blanket or mats

snack

Guided Play

choice 1: toy doctor's kit
supplies

choice 2: prepared
construction-paper
cutouts and paper
plates (see "Before the
Children Arrive")

Exploring

choice 1: copies of **Grace
Notes (GN) 1**

choice 3: copies of
GN 2 on card stock,
envelopes, two
bandages for each child

choice 4: copies of **GN 3**

GATHERING IN GOD'S GRACE

Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Use **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.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

Before the session, for "Guided Play" choice 2, cut out the following shapes from construction paper for each child: two crescents (smile/frown), four ovals (eyes), two triangles (noses). Tape a large craft stick to the bottom of a paper plate for each child.

"Exploring God's Grace" choice 3 requires more prep.

Welcoming and Guided Play

LG **F** **A** **B** **M** **MS**

Greet children as they arrive and say, "Grace and peace be with you." Prompt them to respond, "And also with you." Be sensitive to any children who might be coming for the first time. Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers you do not know personally. Tell the parents/caregivers that today's story is about when Jesus healed Jairus's daughter. Invite the children to choose a guided-play activity to start:

1. **Taking Care of Someone Sick**—Place dolls, blankets, and bottles in a housekeeping area along with toy doctor's kit supplies: a toy stethoscope, bandages, and so forth. Invite the children to care for the babies who might be sick. Invite them to tell you about taking care of a sick child.
2. **Happy/Sad**—Give each child a prepared paper plate and invite them to glue the cutout shapes on each side of the plate, with one side making a happy face (two eyes, a nose, and a smile) and one side a sad face (two eyes, a nose, and a frown). Put aside for "Hearing the Story."
3. **Building Blocks**—Invite the children to play with building blocks and make a town. Engage the children in conversation, asking them what is in their town. Ask them if there is a hospital and what might happen there. Ask them how someone would get from one side of the town to the other side.

L *Children who struggle with attention may have difficulty during story time. To help with focus and comprehension, suggest listening prompts, engage them with movement, or provide a specific item within the story picture to find.*



Transitioning to Story Time

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, singing “With My Hands Open Wide”—**MM 20; SCM 20**. Repeat words and phrases as appropriate.

Jump and Shout MS

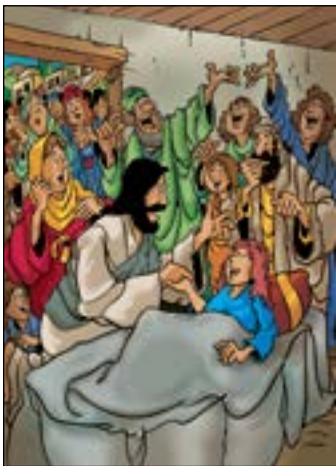
Say the following poem and do the motions indicated, inviting the children to repeat your words and actions.

God made me to jump and shout. (*jump*) /
 God made me to move about. (*wiggle hips*) /
 God made me to wiggle around. (*wave arms and turn in a circle*) /
 And God made me to sit right down. (*sit cross-legged on the ground or sit in a chair and fold hands in lap*) /

I Am . . . MS

Invite the children to repeat your words and follow your actions.

I am strong. (*stand in a “superhero” stance*) /
 I am kind. (*pat a neighbor gently on the back*) /
 I am brave. (*stretch arms out in front*) /
 I am faithful. (*raise arms up in praise to God*) /
 I can be quiet. (*sit down quietly*) /
 I can hear. (*cup hands behind your ears*) /



Today’s story as told in Luke’s Gospel 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.

Hearing the Story L

Open the Bible to Mark 5 so the children know the story comes from the Bible. Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about when Jesus went to a man named Jairus’s house to help his daughter.

Read **SCM 9**. Express the emotions of the story in your voice, gestures, and facial expressions. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

Hand out the happy/sad faces made in “Guided Play” choice 2. Read the story again and invite the children to hold up their plates with a happy or sad face depending on the mood of the story.



EXPLORING GOD'S GRACE

1. Jairus's Daughter



Give each child a copy of **GN 1**. Invite them to color the pictures of Jesus, Jairus, and Jairus's daughter. Point out and read what is written on each character: Jesus—"Don't be afraid. Just believe." Jairus—"I believe." Jairus's daughter—"Thank you!"

After the children have colored the figures, help them cut out the shapes and have them tape a craft stick to the back of each figure. Retell the story and invite the children to use their figures of Jesus, Jairus, and Jairus's daughter to move with the story.

2. Feeling Sick, Feeling Good



Tell the children that they are going to play a game where they are sick or hurt and Jesus comes by to make them better. When the person playing Jesus touches them, they can get up and dance to the music.

Instruct the children to lie down on the floor. For each round, give a different suggestion of what needs healing, such as, "Your leg is hurt. Raise your leg in the air." Move around the room, touching each child's leg and saying, "(Name), your leg is better! Get up and dance!" Play music and let the children take turns being Jesus.



3. Get Well Card



*Before the session, cut cards from **GN 2** and fold them in half with "Get Well" on the inside.*

Tell the children that they are going to make "Get Well" cards to take home and use when someone they know needs it. Give each child a copy of the card. Invite them to draw a picture on the front.

On the inside of the card, show the children how to trace "Get Well" if they are able. Invite them to sign their name on the card. Give each child two bandages to put in the card. Place the card and bandages in an envelope, but do not seal the envelope. Send the cards home with the children.



Use “wonder” questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wondering questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.

4. Coloring Page C

Hand out copies of **GN 3** and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture of Jesus and Jairus’s daughter. Engage the children in conversation as they color, using the following wondering questions:

- ▼ I wonder, “Why did Jesus think she was just sleeping?”
- ▼ I wonder, “How did the little girl feel when she woke up?”
- ▼ I wonder, “How did the little girl’s parents feel when she jumped up?”

T *Transitions can be difficult. This may be a good time for some quick physical activities, such as jumping, dancing, clapping, and so forth.*

LOVING AND SERVING GOD FA

Call the children together, singing “Jesus Says God Care for Us”—**MM 12; SCM 14**. Repeat words and phrases as appropriate.

Remind the children that Jesus told Jairus not to be afraid, and Jairus believed Jesus. Remind the children that they can help take care of someone who is not feeling well. If the children made Get Well cards, be sure and remind them to give them to someone who may need it.

If you would like to share a snack, now would be a good time. Invite the children to repeat after you and follow your actions as you pray:

For food to eat, *(raise hands to mouth)* /
and friends to share, *(hold hands out)* /
for those we love everywhere, *(place hands over heart)* /
we thank you, God. *(put hands together in prayer)* /

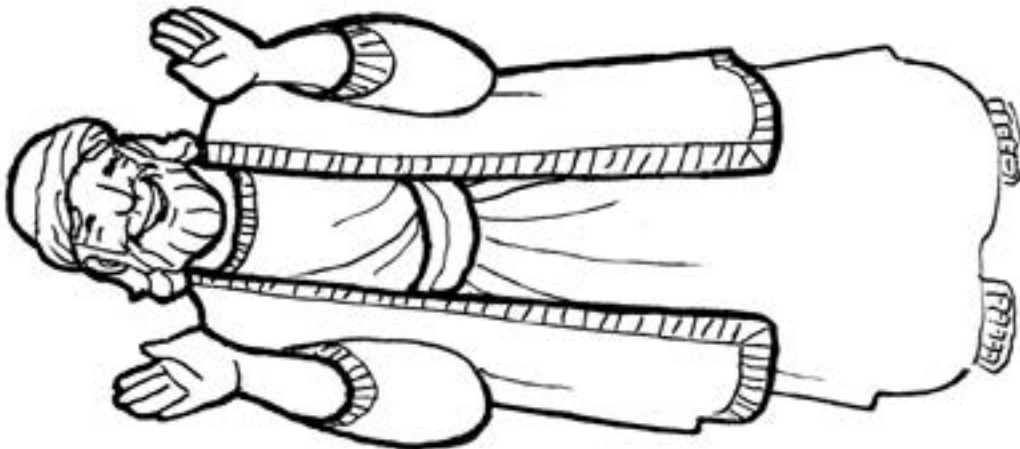
As the children leave, bless them: “(Name), dance for joy! Jesus is with you. Help take care of others. The grace of God goes with you.”



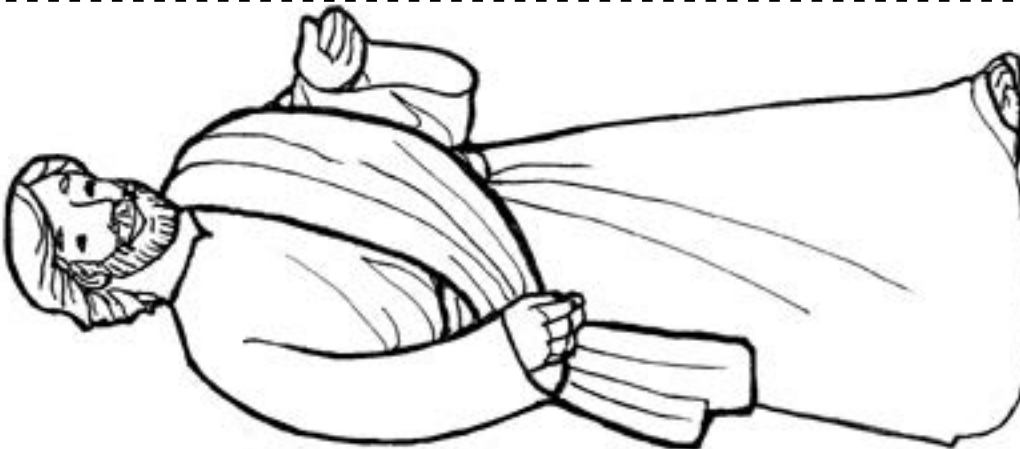
Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so you can send the Grace Sightings link, or invite them to visit www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads. Remind the parents and caregivers about the story audio (see p. vii).



“Thank you!”



“I believe.”



“Don’t be afraid.
Just believe.”



Jesus Heals a Little Girl



A father needs help for his sick daughter. Jesus heals the little girl.

