


the
Jesus 
Storybook
Bible
Curriculum

A little girl and a poor frail lady

The story of Jairus' daughter, from Luke 8

☉ Please see the curriculum Introduction .pdf for more guidance on praying with your group and on Scripture memory.

☉ The total allotted time per lesson is 45 minutes. This is the minimum amount of time it would take to complete the whole lesson. The time can easily be extended to increase the lesson to as much as 1.5 hours. If you have more than the allocated 45 minutes, please use the extra time to extend the time for activities, to learn the memory verse, and to pray.

☉ The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” section is intended as explanation of the Bible text and advance preparation for you only; it is not expressed in terms or language the children could understand.

The Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum
By Sally Lloyd-Jones and Sam Shammas

Copyright © 2011 by Sally Lloyd-Jones (text) and Jago (illustrations). All rights reserved. The original purchaser of this product shall have the right to make unlimited paper copies to facilitate the use of this curriculum by the original purchaser, provided such copies are not resold or distributed to the general public. Otherwise, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other — except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

The “Notes for Teachers on the Text” were written and developed from material by Timothy Keller and Redeemer Presbyterian Church and are used by special permission.

Some of the activity ideas in the curriculum were contributed by Juliet Lloyd-Jones and are used by special permission.

All Scripture quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, *New International Version*®, *NIV*®.
Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Recap of the Previous Story

3 min. 

- ☉ Welcome the children and ask them to sit in a circle.
- ☉ Briefly recap the main point of the previous story: “Last time we read that Jesus chose 12 men to be his helpers or disciples. They were to follow him and be a part of the rescue plan. We also memorized a verse about that rescue plan.”

- ☉ Ask them to recite together the verse they learned at home about the story. “John 1:29 — ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”
- ☉ To lead into the theme of today’s story, ask: “What does it mean to have faith in somebody? Correct, it means to believe them and trust them.”

Activity Introducing the Story

10 min. 

Aim: To expend energy and experience having faith in people.

Materials: 3 blindfolds; a chair with the sign “Home” on it.

1. Say: “Let’s play a game about faith and trust. I need three volunteers to be blindfolded.”
2. Ask the three volunteers to be the travelers. Blindfold them and position them by a wall. Put the chair on the opposite side of the room and announce that it is “Home.”
3. Ask one person to stand beside each traveler as the guide. Ask everybody else to find a place to stand in the room with their arms and legs spread out. Explain that they are obstacles between the traveler and home. The obstacles should find a place to stand and then remain still. If an obstacle deliberately moves, then they are out.
4. Explain the game: The travelers need to get home without bumping into any of the obstacles or one another. The guides walk beside their blindfolded travelers and can call out any instructions they like to get the travelers home; e.g., “Take four steps forward, stop; take one step right, stop”; etc. If a traveler bumps into an obstacle or into another traveler, they have to go back to the wall and start again.
5. Make sure the obstacles are staggered around the room so it is actually possible for the travelers to get home.

6. Play the game for 2 minutes or until someone gets home. Ask the children to remove their blindfolds and ask them what it felt like to have to trust the guides. Get a few answers.

7. Play again, allowing new children to be the travelers and guides. Once the new travelers are blindfolded, give the obstacles 5 seconds to run and find a new place to stand. Again, after 2 minutes or once someone gets home, ask the children who were blindfolded what it felt like to have to trust the guides.

8. Play as many times as you can in the allotted time so that as many children as possible experience being blindfolded.

9. Toward the end of the allocated time, ask everyone to sit back down in the circle. Collect and put away the blindfolds.

10. Say: “In order for you to get home, you had to trust or have faith in your guides. If you’d tried to do it on your own, you would not have made it. If your guides were not trustworthy, you would not have made it. If you decided not to trust what your guides said, then you would not have made it. You had to trust; you had to have faith. In today’s story there are two people who also had faith in someone and what they got as a result is amazing. Let’s find out what faith meant for them.”

Join the children in the circle and announce the title of the story. Read aloud pages 214–221 from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* or listen to CD2 track 13.

Notes for Teachers on the Text

The passage in Luke 8:40–56 interweaves two stories. The second story, that of a woman with a hemorrhage (verses 43–48) is sandwiched between the two parts of the first story, that of the raising of Jairus’ daughter (verses 40–42, then 49–56).

These two incidents, and the series of miracles that follow, show us the same thing—that Jesus is truly omnipotent. He shows his power over nature (e.g., in the calming of the storm), over the most virulent demonic forces (e.g., the casting out of “legion”), and here over disease and even death itself. This is to say that Jesus is divine. He has authority over the impossible. He is all-powerful, even in situations that are hopeless in human terms.

The second theme running through both stories is the theme of faith. Jairus is told to “just believe” (Luke 8:50) and the sick woman is told her “faith has healed” her (Luke 8:48).

It is interesting to note what the text says about the sick woman: “no one could heal her” (Luke 8:43). Mark sheds more light on this when he writes that “she had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors ... yet instead of getting better she grew worse” (Mark 5:26). In other words, she had not simply been suffering from her disease, but also from the “cures”! The woman had essentially given up hoping for any human help. Her faith was: the world could not help her and she was unworthy to touch a holy man, but she was sure that Jesus could help and heal her.

Jairus was a “synagogue leader” (Luke 8:41). This meant that at the very least he was a very distinguished member of a synagogue or he was the official responsible for supervising both the synagogue building and the service. Either way, he was considered highly respectable both socially and morally. Notice that Jairus is nonetheless willing to

risk censure by the religious establishment in order to come to Jesus and that, though he could have stood on his religious respectability, he falls at Jesus’ feet, which is a clear way to show humility. What is also remarkable is Jairus’ confidence that Jesus’ coming will save the life of a girl who would otherwise die. Jairus shows the same core elements of faith as the sick woman: no one else can help and I am unworthy, but Jesus can heal and save from anything.

Jesus actually tells the sick woman, “Daughter, your faith has healed you.” This flies in the face of the common view that “it doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you believe it with all of your heart.” The Bible teaches almost the opposite. We could put it like this: “It’s not so important that you believe fully, perfectly, or purely, as that you believe in the true Savior.”

The classic illustration is the skaters and the ice on the pond. The first skater goes out onto a ¼ inch of ice saying, “I know this will hold me up,” while a second skater goes out onto 4 inches of ice saying, “I’m scared—I hope this will hold me up.” The skater with lots of faith will sink, while the one with little faith will be safe. Why? It is not the faith that saves, but the ice—the object of faith. It is not the strength of the faith, but the object of faith that saves us.

So faith is ultimately not a matter of psychological certainty at all, but a matter of commitment to the right object. We must be careful when we hear the Bible say “we are saved by faith.” That does not mean we are saved *because* of our faith—because of the quality of it. That turns faith into a “work.” Rather we are saved *through* faith. It is Jesus’ love and his work that saves us, not our faith-quality.

Understanding the Story

15 min. 

Aim: To understand that Jesus has power over sickness and death.

Materials: Crayons; copies of the handout (the last page of this document).

1. At the end of the story, ask: “There were two people in the story who had faith in Jesus; who were they? Yes, Jairus and the poor lady.”
2. Give each child a copy of the handout and a crayon. Say: “You can see some thought bubbles near the pictures of Jairus and the poor lady. The game is to write down inside the thought bubbles what Jairus and the poor lady were thinking.”
3. You may want to allow the children to work in pairs. (You may want to ask the children who are struggling to draw rather than write what Jairus and the poor lady are thinking.)
4. Say: “Let’s start with Jairus. Jairus had a little daughter and she was very sick. He loved her, but he could not make her better. In **thought bubble number 1**, write down what Jairus was thinking as he stood by the bed of his sick daughter.”
5. Give the children 1 minute, and then ask some of them to share their answers; e.g.; “I wish there was something I could do!” “I’m helpless!” “I need a miracle!” etc. Share your own answer.
6. Say: “But then Jairus has an idea of how he can help his daughter. He goes and asks Jesus to heal his daughter. What is Jesus’ reply; will he heal her? Raise both hands in the air if you think Jesus agreed to help Jairus. Good, hands down.
7. Say: “But as they are on their way to Jairus’ house, there is a delay and a servant arrives and tells Jairus some terrible news. Jairus’ daughter is dead. In **thought bubble number 2**, write down what Jairus was thinking when he was told his daughter was dead.”
8. Give the children 1 minute, and then ask some of them to share their answers; e.g.; “It is too late!” “What am I going to do now?” etc. Share your own answer.
9. Say: “But even though she is dead, Jesus tells Jairus to trust him. He tells Jairus to have faith in him. They continue to Jairus’ house and when they arrive, Jesus takes the dead girl’s hand and brings her back to life. In **thought bubble number 3**, write down what Jairus was thinking about Jesus when he saw his daughter was alive and well.”
10. Give the children 1 minute, and then ask some of them to share their answers; e.g., “I have never seen anyone with power like this!” “Jesus is so powerful he can even bring people back to life!” “Jesus can make sad things come untrue!” etc. Share your own answer.

11. Say: "Jesus is so powerful he is able to bring the little girl back to life. Let's move on to the poor lady. She has been sick for 12 years. Imagine you were sick for 12 years! Write down what she thought in **thought bubble number 4** when she saw Jesus."

12. Give the children 1 minute, and then ask some of them to share their answers; e.g.; "If I can touch Jesus, I will be healed!" "I know I will be well if I can touch him!" etc. Share your own answer.

13. Say: "The poor sick lady touches Jesus and she is instantly better. But Jesus stops and asks who touched him. So she has to confess what she did. Raise your hand if you think Jesus scolds her. Raise your hand if you think Jesus praises her for her faith. Correct, hands down. Jesus tells her that because she had faith in him, because she believed, she is now well.

14. Say: "Jesus is so powerful that he is able to make a sick person better instantly. Jesus is so powerful he is able to bring the little girl back to life. What do Jairus and the poor lady have in common? You can see two questions on your paper. Did Jairus have faith in Jesus? Circle yes or no. Did the poor lady have faith in Jesus? Circle yes or no. Raise both your hands in the air if you circled 'yes' both times. Good, hands down. Do you have faith in Jesus? Raise your hand if you do. Thank you, hands down."

15. Say: "In these two stories Jesus shows he has power over two things that other people do not have power over. Jesus has power over sickness and power over death."

For larger groups: You may want to divide the group into smaller circles, each with a teacher. Each teacher can then ask the questions to help their circle understand the story and fill out the thought bubbles.

Drawing the Story to a Close

1 min. 

Say: “Jesus was able to make the poor lady better and to bring Jairus’ daughter back to life. Jesus can do things that we can’t do. He has power over sickness and death.”

Say: “In the activity at the start, some of you found it difficult to trust your guides because they are human and make mistakes. But Jesus was a new kind of man — he never made mistakes; he is perfect and powerful in every way, and so we can trust him and have faith in him completely.”

Jesus in the Story

2 min. 

Ask: “What did we discover about Jesus from today’s story?”

Get a few children to share their answers aloud, commenting appropriately; then ask everyone to write an answer in the space on their handout.

Praying about the Story

5 min. 

Pray aloud, thanking God that he is powerful and that we can trust him completely. Ask him to help you and the children to have faith in him always.

Ask the children to pray that God would give them faith in Jesus like that of Jairus and the poor lady.

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

2 min. 

☉ Introduce the verse: “Do you have faith that Jesus, the Lamb of God, can take away all your sin? Do you believe he is powerful enough to do that? Think about that as you practice the verse at home.”

☉ Announce the verse: “So, your verse to practice at home is John 1:29 — ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

☉ Read the verse out loud together as a group.

☉ Remind the children to give the handout to their parents and to memorize the verse for next time.

A little girl and a poor frail lady (The story of Jairus' daughter, from Luke 8)

1

2

3

4

Did Jairus have faith in Jesus? YES NO

Did the poor lady have faith in Jesus? YES NO

Jesus in the Story

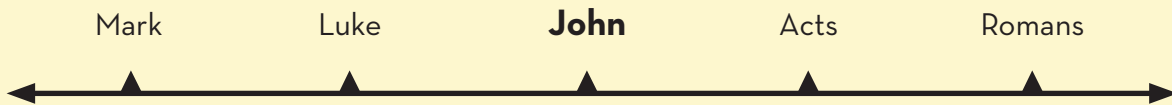


What did you discover about Jesus from this story?

Jesus

A Verse from the Story to Learn at Home

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
(John 1:29)



Notes for parents: From the story we learned about Jesus' power over sickness and death. We also learned that we can have complete faith in Jesus.

Please help your child to memorize the verse and the Scripture reference for next time. Please review with them the place of the book of John, using the diagram above.

www.jesusstorybookbible.com