Preschool–Grade 6

Jairus' Daughter

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: When things look hopeless, don't be afraid; only believe Jesus, who has power over sickness and death.
Bible passage: Mark 5:21–43. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe." *Mark 5:36 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), paper and a pencil for each child, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board.

1. Opening game: Interrupted! (5–10 minutes)

Give each child paper and a pencil. Say: "Write the numbers from 1 to 40 as fast as you can. Go!" After a few seconds, call "Stop!" and ask someone a silly question (What did you eat for breakfast?). Then "Go!" again. Stop them two or three more times. Ask: *How did it feel to be stopped when you were in a hurry?* Say: "Today's story is about a dad in a big hurry, and Jesus stopped on the way."

2. Bible story: Be Not Afraid, Only Believe (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Mark 5. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

A father begs. Jesus crossed the sea by ship, and much people gathered to Him (Mark 5:21). **Look up Mark 5:22–23.** Jairus, one of the rulers of the **synagogue** (the meeting place for prayer and reading God's Word), fell at Jesus' feet and **besought** Him greatly, which means begged Him: "My little daughter lieth at the point of death," which means she is about to die. Jesus went with him, and the people **thronged** Him, pressing all around (5:24).

A woman touches His garment. A woman had been sick for twelve years. She had **suffered many things of many physicians** (gone through a lot from many doctors), spent all she had, and only grew worse (5:25–26). **Look up Mark 5:28.** She said, "If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." She came in the **press**, the crowd, behind Him and touched His garment, and **straightway** (right away) she felt in her body that she was healed of that **plague**, her sickness (5:27, 5:29). Jesus knew that **virtue**, power, had gone out of Him, and He asked, "Who touched my clothes?" (5:30). His disciples said, "Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?" (5:31). **Thronging** means crowding and pushing. The woman came, fearing and trembling, fell down before Him, and told Him all the truth (5:33). **Look up Mark 5:34.** "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace."

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The bad news. While Jesus was still speaking, men came from Jairus' house: "Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?" (5:35). That means, "Why bother the Teacher anymore?" **Look up Mark 5:36.** As soon as Jesus heard it, He said to Jairus, "Be not afraid, only believe."

Talitha cumi. Jesus let no one follow Him except Peter, James and John (5:37). At the house there was a **tumult**, a loud uproar, with people weeping and wailing (5:38). Jesus said, "Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth" (5:39). They **laughed him to scorn**, which means they made fun of Him (5:40). He put them all out, and took the girl's father and mother and the three disciples in where she was lying (5:40). **Look up Mark 5:41.** He took her by the hand and said, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise." **Look up Mark 5:42.** Straightway the damsel arose and walked, for she was twelve years old, and they were astonished. Jesus **charged them straitly**, which means told them firmly, that no one should know it, and told them to give her something to eat (5:43).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Jairus was in a hurry, and Jesus stopped for the woman. What do you think Jairus felt while he waited?
2. The woman was healed, but Jesus still called her to come and talk with Him (5:30–34). Why do you think He did that?
3. The men said, "why troublest thou the Master any further?" (5:35). Have you ever felt like something was too late to pray about?
4. Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe" (5:36). What is something you can believe Jesus for, instead of being afraid?
5. Both the woman and the girl are connected to the number twelve (5:25, 5:42). What else do the two stories have in common?

Recall questions

1. What was Jairus' job? *(One of the rulers of the synagogue, Mark 5:22)*
2. Which three disciples went into the house with Jesus? *(Peter, James and John, 5:37)*
3. What does "Talitha cumi" mean? *("Damsel, I say unto thee, arise," 5:41)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **saith** means says, **the ruler of the synagogue** is Jairus, and **only believe** means just trust Jesus. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus has power over sickness and over death. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when something makes you afraid, pray, and say Mark 5:36 out loud.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Mark 5:21: Where was Jesus when the people gathered? *(Nigh unto the sea, near the sea)*
2. Mark 5:22: What did Jairus do when he saw Jesus? *(He fell at his feet)*
3. Mark 5:26: What had the woman spent? *(All that she had)*
4. Mark 5:30: What did Jesus ask? *(Who touched my clothes?)*
5. Mark 5:34: Where did Jesus tell the woman to go? *(Go in peace)*
6. Mark 5:38: What did Jesus see at the house? *(The tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly)*
7. Mark 5:42: How old was the damsel? *(Twelve years)*
8. Mark 5:43: What did Jesus command them to give her? *(Something to eat)*

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You that You care about every one of us, and that nothing is too hard for You, not even death. When things look hopeless, help us not to be afraid, but only believe. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child is grieving: be gentle and honest. Jesus cares when we are sad, and He has power over death. Don't promise that someone who has died will come back now. Listen, pray with the child, and let the parents and the pastor know.

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