Preschool–Grade 6

Jairus' Daughter

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Don't be afraid. Believe Jesus.
Bible passage: Mark 5:21–43. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Be not afraid, only believe." *Mark 5:36 (KJV)*. The old words mean: don't be afraid, just believe Jesus.
You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 5.

1. Opening game: Wake Up! (5 minutes)

Kids lie down on the floor and close their eyes. Say, "Shh, everyone is sleeping." Then say, "Wake up!" and everyone jumps up. Play it three or four times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a girl who got up when Jesus said, 'Arise!'"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 5. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A dad named Jairus came to Jesus (Mark 5:22). *(Walk in place.)*
He said his little girl was very sick (5:23). *(Make a sad face.)*
Jesus went with him. Lots of people came too (5:24). *(Squeeze together.)*
A sick woman touched Jesus' clothes (5:27). *(Reach out one hand.)*
She was made well (5:29)! *(Clap, clap!)*
Then some men came. They said his little girl had died (5:35). *(Cover your face.)*
Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe" (5:36). **Say it with me: "Be not afraid, only believe!"**
Jesus went to the house (5:38). *(Walk in place.)*
Jesus took the girl by the hand (5:41). *(Hold a friend's hand.)*
Jesus said, "Arise" (5:41)! That means, "Get up!" *(Stand up tall.)*
Right away the girl got up and walked (5:42)! *(Walk around in a circle.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus is strong! I will believe!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who came to Jesus for help? *(Jairus, the girl's dad, Mark 5:22)*
2. What did Jesus say? *("Be not afraid, only believe," 5:36)*
3. What did the girl do when Jesus said, "Arise"? *(She got up and walked, 5:42)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'Be not afraid, only believe.'" Teach the motion: shake your head no for "Be not afraid," then put your hand on your heart for "only believe." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 5:36" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: The Girl Who Got Up (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw the girl standing up, with long hair and a long dress, and her mom and dad beside her. While they color, ask: "What did Jesus say? What did the girl do?" Kids who finish early can play Wake Up! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for being so strong.
When I am afraid, help me believe You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and do every motion big. Keep the sad part short and the happy ending big. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is sad or has lost someone: be gentle. Say, "Jesus cares when we are sad." Let parents and the pastor talk with the child more.

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