Preschool–Grade 6

Jairus' Daughter

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Faith keeps believing Jesus when the news is bad and the crowd is laughing, because Jesus has power over sickness and death.
Bible passage: Mark 5:21–43. Students read it out loud themselves.
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)* and "And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." *Mark 5:34 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Mark 5:21–43 (and Luke 8:40–56 if you can). Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses, or go around the room a few verses each.

1. Opening game: Fear or Faith? (5–10 minutes)

Name one side of the room "fear" and the other side "faith." Read each situation. Students walk to the side that shows what they would honestly feel first. 1) A family member is in the hospital. 2) You have to stand up and speak in front of the whole school. 3) You prayed about something for a long time and nothing has changed. 4) Your friends laugh when you say you pray. Ask: *Can a person feel afraid and still choose to believe?* Say: "Jesus told a father in the worst moment of his life, 'Be not afraid, only believe.'"

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Mark 5:21–34. Students take turns, a few verses each. Old words in this passage:

- **rulers of the synagogue** (5:22): leaders of the town's meeting place for prayer and the Scriptures
- **besought** (5:23): begged; **lieth at the point of death**: is dying
- **thronged** (5:24, 5:31): crowded and pressed around; **the press** (5:27): the crowd
- **many physicians** (5:26): many doctors; **nothing bettered**: no better
- **be whole** (5:28, 5:34): be healed; **plague** (5:29, 5:34): her sickness
- **virtue** (5:30): power

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Read out loud: Mark 5:35–43. Old words in this passage:

- **troublest thou the Master** (5:35): bother the Teacher
- **suffered no man** (5:37): let no one
- **tumult** (5:38): uproar; **ado** (5:39): fuss and noise
- **laughed him to scorn** (5:40): mocked Him
- **Talitha cumi** (5:41): words Jesus spoke, which Mark explains: "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise"
- **straightway** (5:42): right away; **astonished with a great astonishment**: completely amazed
- **charged them straitly** (5:43): told them firmly

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Jairus was a leader of the synagogue, yet he fell at Jesus' feet in front of everyone (5:22). What does that show about him? What does it take for us to humble ourselves like that?
2. Jesus stopped for one woman while Jairus' daughter was dying (5:30–34). What does that teach about how Jesus sees every single person?
3. The woman was already healed, yet Jesus called her forward and called her "Daughter" (5:34). Why do you think that mattered to her after twelve years?
4. The messengers said it was too late (5:35). Jesus heard them and spoke to Jairus right away (5:36). What "too late" thoughts do people have about God today?
5. Jesus said, "Be not afraid, only believe" before anything had changed (5:36). What is the difference between feeling afraid and choosing to believe?
6. The mourners laughed at Jesus (5:40). How do you keep believing when people around you laugh at your faith?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Mark 5:34: **thy faith hath made thee whole** means your faith has made you well. **Go in peace** means go with your heart at rest. **Be whole of thy plague** means be healed of your sickness. Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Mark 5:36 this week; keep working on Mark 5:34 next week too.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Jesus has power over sickness and over death, and He showed it in Jairus' house. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What am I afraid of right now? Write it honestly.
2. What would "only believe" look like for me in that situation this week?
3. Write a short prayer giving that fear to Jesus and asking Him for faith.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: each time you feel afraid, pray Mark 5:36 back to God: "Lord, I will not be afraid; I will only believe."

7. Prayer

"Dear Jesus, thank You that You stop for every person, and that You have power over sickness and death. When the news is bad and others laugh, help us not to be afraid, but only believe. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us. In Jesus' name, amen."

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

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