

# A Good Shepherd Story of Jesus

## Jairus' Daughter

Adapted by:  
Brenda J. Stobbe

---

**Illustrations by:  
Jennifer Schoeneberg**

2nd Edition  
©Good Shepherd, Inc. 1991, 1992  
Good Shepherd, a registered trademark of Good Shepherd, Inc.  
All Rights Reserved  
Printed in U.S.A.

# JAIRUS' DAUGHTER .... MATERIALS

- large wicker basket to hold:
  - wooden Jesus figure
  - wooden Jairus figure
  - wooden Jairus' wife figure
  - wooden Jairus' daughter figure
  - wooden woman figure
  - wooden messenger figure
  - 3 wooden disciple figures
  - blue felt sea
  - gray felt outline of square (house)
  - brown felt road

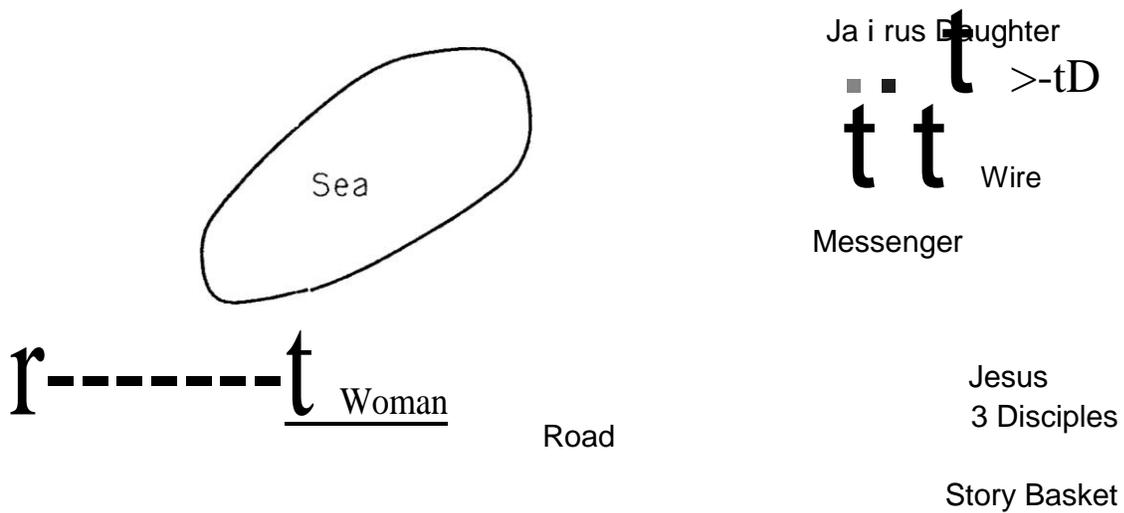
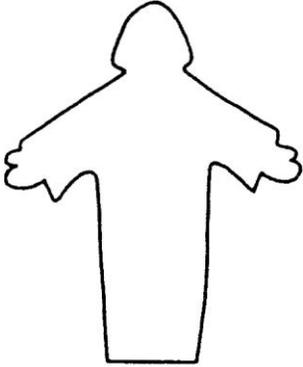


Diagram of Story Setup



Jesus



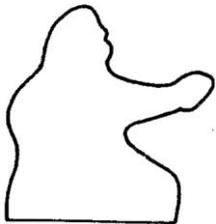
Jairus



Jairus' Wife



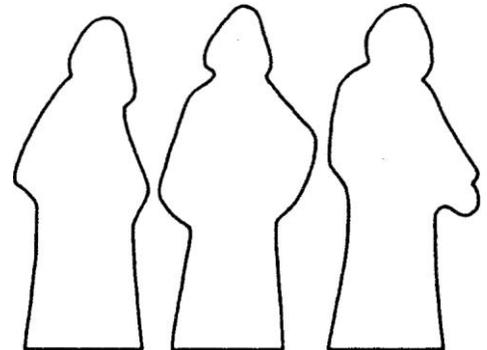
Jairus' Daughter



Woman



Messenger



Disciples

## JAIRUS' DAUGHTER ••• \fARK 5:21-43

### ACTIONS

After speaking, stand and get the story basket from its shelf. Carry it with two hands as you return to the circle and sit down.

Sit silently for at least 15 seconds, gently touching the figures.

Unfold and layout according to the diagram on the materials page, brown road, blue sea, gray house and people figures. Smooth the felt before you begin the words.

Place Jesus next to the blue sea.

Move the figure of Jairus from his house quickly up the road to Jesus.

With a very concerned expression on your face; gesture--asking Jesus to come.

Move Jesus immediately to the side of Jairus and start them on the road toward Jairus' house.

Move the two men very slowly, guiding them around imaginary people and stopping them now and then for huge imaginary crowds.

As the men move, stop the Jesus figure, but have Jairus move on a couple of steps.

### WORDS

Watch carefully where I go to get this story so you will know where to find it if you choose to make it your work today or another day.

All of the words to this story are inside me. Will you make silence with me so I will remember them?

Once there was a man who said amazing things and did wonderful things. And everywhere he went people began to follow him.

One day when the man was sitting beside the sea talking with the people who gathered around, a man came running up to him.

The man's name was Jairus and he was a leader of the synagogue, where the people of God worshiped and learned.

The man said, "My little daughter is very sick and we think she will die. Please come and touch her so she will be made well and live. "

So the man who said amazing things and did wonderful things went with Jairus toward his house.

But there were so many people crowded around Jesus that they could not move very fast. Everyone wanted to touch Jesus.

Even as Jesus was walking, he stopped because he felt some strength go from him.

Turn Jesus toward the imaginary crowd and bring the woman close to Jesus.

Smile and touch the figure of the woman as you nod slowly.

Bring the messenger figure from the house quickly up to Jairus.

Using a sad voice and expression make the announcement.

Continue to move the Jesus figure toward the house. Have Jairus and the messenger follow.

Very gently touch Jairus' house.

Slowly shake your head.

Point at Jesus.

Leave the messenger outside the house. Move Jesus, Jairus and three disciples next to Jairus' wife and prone daughter.

Move the Jesus figure to touch the daughter's hand.

Stand the little girl figure up and move her around. Turn the Jesus figure toward the parents.

Shake your head slowly in amazement.

When he asked who had touched him, a woman came to him and said she was the one. She told Jesus that she had been sick for twelve years and no doctors could help her. But she believed that if she just touched Jesus' robe, she would be healed.

Jesus told her that because of her faith she would be made well.

While Jesus was still talking to the woman a messenger came from Jairus' house and said, "It's too late, your daughter is dead. Why bother the teacher any more?"

But the man who said amazing things and did wonderful things didn't listen to them. He kept going toward Jairus' house.

When he got to Jairus' house, Jesus found people crying. He said to them, "Why are you crying? The child is not dead. "

But all the people laughed at his words because they did not believe him.

Then Jesus put everyone outside the girl's room except her father and mother and a few of the men who walked with him.

Then Jesus took her hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Immediately the little girl stood up and walked. Then Jesus said, "Give her something to eat, but don't tell anyone what you've seen."

And all the people who had seen the little girl come back to life were amazed.

## WONDERING QUESTIONS:

I wonder how Jesus felt when strength went out of him?

I wonder if the woman who touched him was afraid?

I wonder what the little girl thought when she was alive and saw Jesus?

Place the wooden figures in the basket. Slowly fold the felt pieces that need to be folded and lay them in the basket.

After speaking, carry the basket back to its shelf. Return to the circle and sit down.

Dismiss children to their work ONLY after everyone has had a chance to choose their work.

Watch carefully how I put these materials away so you will know how to use them if you choose this for your work today or another day.

Watch carefully where I return this story so you will know where to find it if you decide to make this your work today or another day.

What will be your work today? Let's go around the circle and choose. Now we can begin.

## JAffiUS' DAUGHTER .... TEACHER HELPS

This story of resurrection is very special for children. It is also very important for the rest of us. A few special notes:

First, Jairus was a leader in the synagogue. This helps us understand that not all the religious leaders were opposed to Jesus and his ministry. Jairus had a great need and went to the one person he believed could help him.

Second, Jesus understood that the woman in the crowd was reaching out to him in need. She tried to hide her condition, understanding that she was ritually unclean and should not even be in a crowd where she might touch other people and make them unclean as well. The woman would not imagine touching Jesus, but she had enough faith that she believed if she even touched his robe, she would be healed. She was right.

Third, Jesus did not heal the little girl in front of the crowd who had been following him. It was not that time in his ministry yet. He was not ready for everyone to call him Messiah. He took only the parents and three of his disciples while he performed this wonderful miracle.

At the end of the story Jesus warned them not to tell anyone what he'd done, and then instructed them to feed the child. She was alive and human and she needed to eat.

The first wondering question addresses Jesus' physical feeling when strength left him. It makes us wonder if Jesus was weakened as he healed persons. Did he feel good? Was he tired? See what the children say.

The second question asks if the woman was afraid. We don't make an issue of her fear of being discovered, but I believe she was frightened. I believe it was her desire to be made well that overcame any fear.

What did the little girl think when she was alive? Did she remember being dead? Did she know who Jesus was? Did she laugh? Did she hug her mother and father? All of these wonderments are very human and probably in the mind of the child. Keep in mind that we celebrate the fact that we can wonder and question. It's good and healthy and will bring growth both mentally and spiritually.

#### **SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN:**

Parents will tell you that they cannot imagine anything more painful than losing a child. Who would be the hardest person for you to lose?

Jairus must have seen the woman who was healed as a real problem in his life. Jesus saw her as an opportunity to heal. Think of a time in your life when something that started out as a problem turned into something that ended up being good.

Imagine that you are the healed woman or the healed child. The next day at the city well one of you meets the other. Share your experiences of being healed by Jesus.

When Jesus healed the little girl there were only a few people around him. When he healed the woman there was a crowd. When do you feel comfortable with only a few people around you? When do you like a lot of people around you?