

Jesus heals Jairus' daughter and a sick woman. Godly Play. Mark 5:21-43.

You will need: A large rectangular piece of blue cloth/ felt (the lake) , a long strip of green felt to place along one side of the blue (the shore), a toy boat, wooden figures (Jesus, Jairus, sick woman, messenger, girl, plus some to form a crowd), a small rectangle of brown felt which can be laid on the green to indicate a house, a white cloth to completely cover the girl. This is not a parable, it a story about an event in the life of Jesus, therefore it doesn't need a gold box. It can be presented in an open basket, much like the Old Testament stories.

The Script (*actions are shown in italics*):

Let's see if there are things in the basket to help us with this story. I wonder what this could be? *(take out the blue cloth and play with it, inviting the children to make suggestions about what it might be. Accept all answers. Finally, once the wondering dies down, smooth the rectangle out so that it lies in front of you with the narrow edges to your left and right.)*

Is there anything else? Yes, perhaps this can help us. I wonder what it could be? *(take out the green felt piece. Allow the children time to wonder before you lay it to your right hand side on the top of the blue cloth to form a shore line.*

We'll need this too. I wonder what this is? *(take out the brown felt rectangle, lay it on the green felt, this is Jairus' house so it needs to be placed close enough to where you'll place the crowd that the journey from one to the other won't take very long)*

We will need this boat to tell the story too. *(Then place the boat a little way from the shore line on the blue cloth.)*

This story begins with Jesus in the boat, so I'll put him there. *(place one of the wooden figures in the boat)*

(finally, place Jairus' daughter under the white cloth in the "house", you don't need to say anything about this...let them wonder!)

There is nothing else that can help us, so all we can do is begin.

At this point, once the wondering about the felt pieces is finished and you have placed the boat, you keep your eyes on the story and must remain engaged in it, without giving any more eye contact to the children, until the storytelling is complete.

(start to place figures in a group on the shoreline, you'll need to leave gaps in the crowd because later in the story Jesus and Jairus need to move through the crowd) A big crowd is on the gathered on the shore ... waiting ... everyone is excited. The little boat sails closer and closer(move the boat slowly towards the shoreline where the figures are placed, once the boat has finished its journey you'll need to take Jesus out of the boat and place him into the crowd) Jesus steps out of the boat and into the crowd.

An important man is standing at the front of the crowd. His name is Jairus (*point to one of the wooden figures next to Jesus*). He is looking very worried. He is crying. He begs Jesus to go with him to his house. Jairus has a daughter, she is 12 years old, she is very sick. They must hurry, Jesus and Jairus have to push their way through the crowd to get to Jairus' house. (*move Jairus first and then Jesus through the crowd. Jairus leads the way*)

A woman is there in the crowd (*point to another of the figures*). She has been ill for 12 years. No one has touched her or hugged her for all that time. No medicine could make her better. People say she is "unclean." But she is sure that Jesus has the power to make her better. If she can just touch his coat, that will be enough to heal her. So ... as Jesus hurries by ... she reaches out her hand and... Jesus stops. Jesus knows that something special has just happened. He asks who has touched him. He wants to talk to them. (*Jesus faces the woman*)

The woman is embarrassed to talk about her illness, but now she is healed! She tells Jesus everything. Jesus tells her that she has been made well because of her faith.

Jesus can see Jairus looking so worried. They continue on their journey towards the house. (*move past the crowd and onwards*)

Now a man is coming from Jairus' house with a message. (*take a figure from the basket and move it towards Jairus and Jesus*) The man tells Jairus that it is too late, his daughter has died.

Jesus looks at Jairus. Jesus tells him not to be afraid, but to have faith.

They get to the house. (*move all three figures until they are beside the brown felt rectangle*). Jesus goes to the little girl, she is so still. (*move Jesus beside the white cloth*) Jesus takes her by the hand and tells her to get up. She ... opens her eyes. She ... sits up ... stands up! She is alive! (*remove the white cloth and stand the figure up*)

Now it's time to look up from the story and engage in the verbal wondering. Be patient, sometimes it takes the children a while to feel happy to speak. Sometimes the quietest children are doing the deepest wondering!

I wonder which part of the story you like the best?

I wonder which part of the story is the most important?

I wonder if we could take a part of the story away and still have everything we need?

I wonder which part of the story is about you?

I wonder what the people said about Jesus after these things had happened?

I wonder why the lady was so sure Jesus could help her?

I wonder how Jairus felt when the messenger met him on his journey to the house?

Once the verbal wondering is over, begin to return all the objects carefully into the box. Don't hurry, naming each piece as you return it.

I wonder what work you would like to do now to continue your wondering?

Don't feel obliged to ask all the wondering questions and feel free to be lead to make more, depending upon where the wondering goes. Each time you deliver the story new questions and answers will emerge. Ensure you try not to close down the wondering with a prescriptive answer.

Try to allow as much choice as possible during the individual response time. If possible this work should be evidenced with photographs or small group discussion. The children's work during the individual response time is personal and should not be shared unless the child requests it. Children will gain the most from individual response time if they are fully relaxed and the pace is slow.