

Pre-school

The first in a series of four.

Aim:

To show that Jesus cares for us when we are worried or sick, and that He can help us and make us well.

Scripture:

Mark 5:21-43

Memory verse:

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.

Psalms 28:7

Thought for the teacher:

We see in this lesson, Jesus reaching out to the outcast and touching the lives of ordinary people.

We want the children to know that Jesus is reaching out His love to 'touch' each child in your class today.

Bible focus

My son enjoys 'spot the difference' puzzles - two pictures that appear to be identical, but contain a few small differences. Today's passage is, in one sense, the reverse of 'spot the difference'. Two stories that seem quite different, but do, in fact, contain some similarities. Let's spot some similarities!

Spot the similarities

The two stories are interwoven into a single passage: the incident with the sick woman sandwiched between the story of Jairus and his daughter. The first common element is that both stories involve someone with little status and few rights (women and children in those times had very limited rights under Jewish law). Secondly, both would have been considered 'unclean'. The girl, because she was dead (Numbers 19:11), the woman, because she was bleeding (Leviticus 15:19-27). Under Jewish law, even accidentally touching someone who was 'unclean' made that person unclean too. This brings us to the third similarity: in both instances, Jesus sets aside this constraint of the Jewish Law for a more important purpose. Here is a foreshadowing of what Jesus would later do on the cross. Although sinless, He would allow Himself to be so stained by sin that even the Father would have to turn away from Him: 'My God, my God, why have You deserted me?' (Matthew 27:46). Yet, just as by 'defiling' Himself Jesus healed the woman and raised the young girl back to life. By 'defiling' Himself on the cross He cleanses us and gives us new life. The fourth similarity is that Jesus treats both the woman and the girl with tenderness, using terms of endearment to address them (vs 34, 41).

Authority and power

Some people demand respect, loudly and insistently; others command it without a word, simply by being who they are. Jesus belonged to the latter category. He didn't go around barking commands or flaunting His powers. On the contrary, He often opted to work in secret, yet His very presence and personality radiated power and authority.

Jairus was no ordinary citizen. He was a "ruler of the synagogue" an important 'church official'! Falling down on your knees was something you did before God or your king; for a man like Jairus to fall on his knees in this

manner tells us that Jairus recognized Jesus' authority. As someone who was ritually unclean, the woman had no right to even be present in such a crowd, let alone touch Jesus. Her daring testifies to a recognition of Jesus' power. Do you recognize the presence and power of God as you walk through your day, your home, your work place, or your neighbourhood?

Health and wholeness

The woman's problem was not purely physical, it was also religious. Her ceremonial uncleanness prevented her from entering into the full experience of worship. She also faced heartbreaking social problems. She could not touch (or be touched by) another human being without 'contaminating' that person; marriage would have been impossible; friendship fraught with difficulties. She could never hold a child in her arms or hug someone in trouble. Loneliness was probably her greatest problem.

As the woman touched Jesus, 'she knew she was well' (v. 29). But Jesus wanted to do more than just heal her body; He wanted her to be a whole person. After this close encounter with Jesus, the woman experiences total healing (v. 34). We sometimes associate healing with purely physical problems, but, as modern medicine teaches (and as God has known all along!), mental, emotional, spiritual and physical problems are often interlinked. It is not simply good health that God wants for us, but wholeness.

Tanya Ferdinandusz

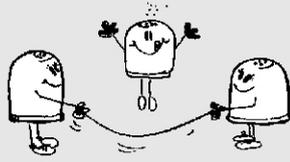


Prayer

Lord Jesus, touch me today and make me whole. Holy Spirit, empower me to become a channel of Your healing touch to the people You may bring into my life.

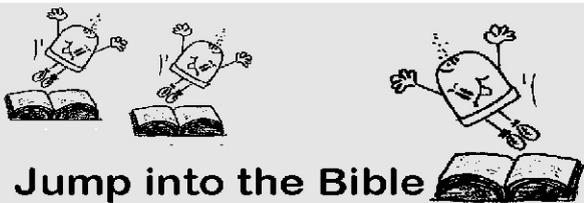
Amen.

Jumpstart



- Before the lesson make the 'spider' and fill the socks with small items (See 'You will need'):
- Choose a child to put their hand in a sock. They must describe the object they can feel without saying what it is, e.g. it is cold, it is round, it is made of metal, etc.
 - Whoever guesses the mystery object has the next turn.
 - You could also vary the game by pairing up the children. When they are unable to guess correctly, their partner can help them.
 - Let all the children have a turn to guess and participate.

Talk about the importance of touch in identifying each object. Explain that in today's story about Jesus, touch is important.



Jump into the Bible

- Although two stories are interwoven in this Bible passage, it would be best to retell them separately or just to use the first story. If using both stories, plan your session so that there are activities between them.
- Begin the story with the doll, wrapped in the blanket, in your arms. Pass it to your helper when indicated. When you ask, 'How is the girl now?' your helper should respond with phrases like, 'not very well', or 'I'm very worried'

Tell the story:

There was a man called Jairus whose daughter was very ill. Everyone was worried about her. Nothing seemed to help.

'I've got to do something', Jairus said. 'I've heard that Jesus is back in town. I'll go and fetch Him. I'm sure He can make her well.'

So he left the girl with her mother. (*Hand the doll over.*) He ran outside to fetch Jesus, but there was a huge crowd in the streets. People were pushing to get closer to Jesus.

Jairus began to push too. (*Mime this.*) He knew he must get to Jesus soon or his daughter would die. 'How is the girl now?' (*When your helper responds, shake your head*

sadly and mime pushing again.)

Jairus called out, 'Jesus, come and help', but everyone was talking and calling out too, so Jairus' voice didn't reach Jesus. He pushed some more. 'How is the girl now?' (*Response.*)

Then, at last, by pushing and shoving forward, Jairus reached Jesus.

'Please come with me,' he begged Jesus. 'My little girl is dying. Please come and touch her so that she'll get better and live.'

Jesus said nothing, but He began to follow Jairus. How is the girl now? (*Response.*)

Jairus hurried along, trying to make a path through the crowd of people to his home. He looked back and saw that Jesus had stopped.

'Jesus, please hurry!' he said.

But Jesus was looking at someone else. How is the girl now? (*Response.*)

'Oh, please hurry', said Jairus. 'My daughter is so ill.' But Jesus would not hurry. He was talking to a woman in the crowd. Jairus felt so worried, but he could not make Jesus come with him. And then he spotted someone from his house pushing through the crowd towards him. 'Don't trouble Jesus any more, Jairus,' she said. 'Your daughter has died.'

Jairus turned back to Jesus. Jesus said to him, 'Don't be afraid. I can still help you.'

They set off for Jairus' house and went straight indoors. Jesus touched the girl. (*Take the doll back from your helper.*) He spoke to her. 'Little girl, get up.' And she did! (*Move the doll as appropriate.*) She sat up, rubbed her eyes and looked around. Then she stood up and ran to Jairus and her mother.

Everyone was amazed! Jairus was so glad that he'd trusted Jesus. Jesus smiled. 'Give her something to eat.'

Talk about how Mrs Jairus must have felt, drawing out the increasing sense of urgency. But Jesus was in control and knew just what was needed, even when everyone else thought it was too late.

- For the second story, use your helper again (*or put on a head scarf to help you change roles*), this time to represent the woman. The helper should mime the action and when you ask, 'How are you feeling now?' respond with the words in **bold italics**.

There was a woman who had been ill for a very long time. She had been to many doctors, but no one had been able to help her. 'How are you feeling now?' ***Very tired. I always feel so tired.***

Then one day, Jesus visited her town. The woman saw the crowds following Him and she walked behind Him too. 'How are you feeling now?' ***I want Jesus to make me better, but I'm scared He won't notice me.***

She knew that Jesus could make sick people well. She knew that Jesus could help her, too. So she wriggled through the crowds and got close to Jesus. 'How are you

feeling now?' ***I don't feel well, but I must at least touch Jesus.***

So she reached out and touched Jesus' coat. 'How are you feeling now?' ***I feel so much better. I feel strong again!***

She was just turning away to go home when she heard Jesus' voice saying, 'Who touched Me? I know someone touched Me.' 'How are you feeling now?' ***I feel scared. What if He's angry with me?***

So the woman turned back and knelt at Jesus' feet. 'It was me', she said. 'I touched You and then I was well again.' Jesus smiled. 'Go home now,' He said kindly. 'Be happy because you're free of your illness.' 'How are you feeling now?' ***Wonderful. I'm well and, best of all, Jesus smiled at me and spoke to me. I've never been so happy!***

Teach the memory verse: The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.
Psalm 28:7

Highlight how Jairus and the sick woman trusted Jesus and He helped them.

Jump into Life



☺ Read through the following prayer together, teaching the children the responses.

Leader: Jesus, You stopped to listen to Jairus.

Children: Help me to listen to other people.

Leader: Jesus, You stopped to be kind to the woman in the crowd.

Children: Help me to be kind to other people.

Leader: Jesus, You stopped to pray for healing for Jairus' daughter.

Children: Help me to pray for other people.

Leader: Jesus, You always stopped to help anyone who asked you.

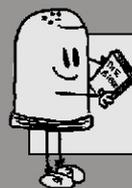
Children: Help me to be a good friend to everyone. Amen.

Pick out the four things the prayer focuses on:

- listening to others,
- being kind,
- praying for others,
- being a good friend.

Discuss a number of examples of each.

- Give the children some paper, ask them to choose one of the four elements of the prayer and let them draw one example of this on their paper. They can then come quietly forward and glue it to the appropriate section of a circle, divided into four..
- Have more paper available for children to contribute to more than one section of the circle if they wish.
- Repeat the responsive prayer together, encouraging the children to think about what is displayed on the circle as they pray.



Words of Life

Memory Verse:

Psalm 28:7

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.

Explain why and how Jesus came to be our strength and shield. What does Jesus protect us from as our shield? Talk about everyday circumstances where the children may need help. After each suggestion mime the action and have them say the verse together, highlighting God being there with us and that we can trust in Him.

Resource pages:

- 6A - Healing Jairus' daughter, memory verse
- 6B - God will help us.



You will need:

Jumpstart: A round cushion with eight socks attached to it to resemble a spider, eight small objects to put in the socks, e.g. a pencil sharpener, a spoon, a toy car etc.

Jump into the Bible: A doll, a helper

Jump into Life: Crayons, scrap paper

Song suggestions:

- ♪ Jesus' love is very wonderful
- ♪ Reach out and touch the Lord
- ♪ All to Jesus I surrender

Extra time:

Remind the group that Jairus needed help when his daughter was very ill. Who did he ask? He asked Jesus. Say that when we need help, we can ask Jesus too. Give a few examples, e.g. when we are worried or sad, when someone is ill, when we have to do something new. Teach the children to sing to the tune 'If you're happy and you know it':

If you trust Jesus, tell Him what you need. (x 2)

If you trust in Jesus, tell Him what you need.

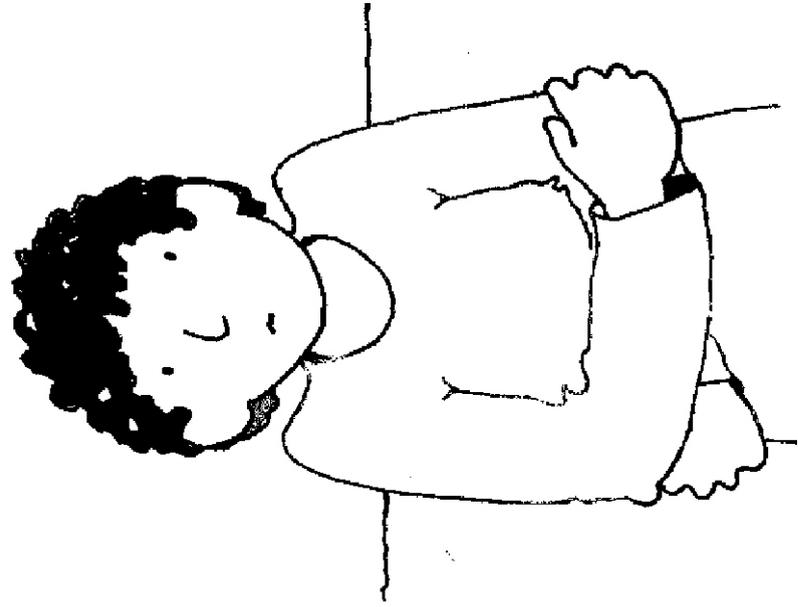
If you trust Jesus, tell Him what you need.

Other verses: If you trust Jesus, ask Him for His help.
If you trust Jesus, always pray to Him.

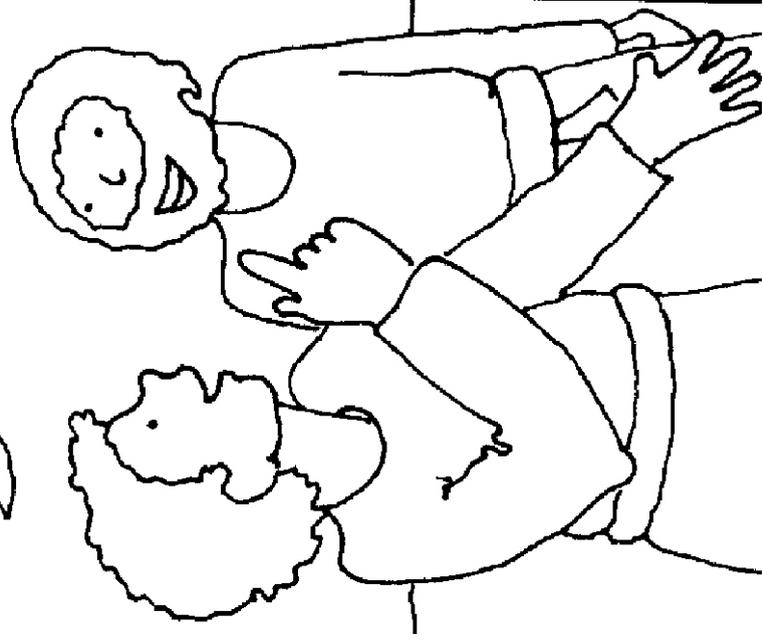
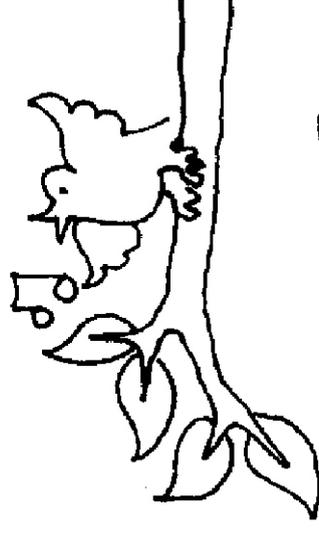
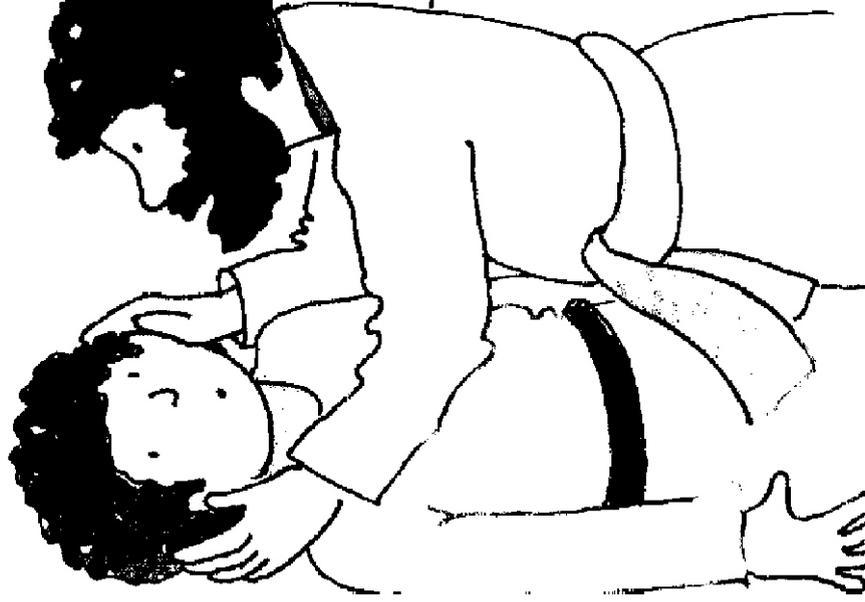
Close by saying a short prayer of thanks, e.g. 'Thank you, Jesus, it's good to know that we can ask You to help us at any time. Amen.'

Colour in the pictures.

The man could not hear.

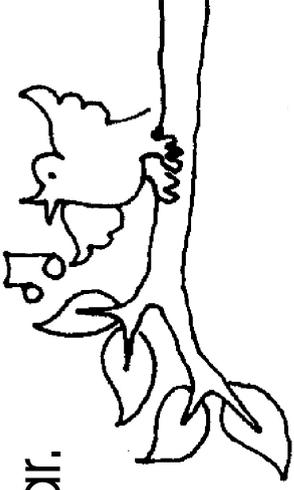


Jesus touched the man's ears and said, 'Open up!'



The man could hear.

Thank Jesus that you can hear:
God gave me two ears
So that I can hear.
Thank You, God,
thank You God,
for giving ears
to me.



Draw a picture of something you can hear.

