God’s Big Story: Jesus Heals

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| scripture focus |
| Luke 8:40-56; Mark 5:21-43 |

big picture

Jesus performed countless miracles and healed many people, but these two stories are striking because of the way they are juxtaposed. Jairus is a rich and important man, and it wouldn’t have been surprising to anybody that Jesus immediately responded to his plea, especially after Jairus fell on his knees and begged. But that Jesus would pause, in the midst of the urgency of Jairus’ plight, to have a conversation with an old, unclean woman who had already been healed, was utterly unexpected. Jesus names the old woman “Daughter” and the 12-year-old “Little Girl”. They are both full children of God, infinitely precious in his sight and worthy of attention. Jesus heals and names them. Who do you identify with in this story right now – the desperate Jairus, the mystified disciples, the terrified woman, the deathly ill girl, or the incredulous mourners? Why?

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* “A Little Girl and a poor frail lady”, p.214-221 | Luke 8:40-56; Mark 5:21-43; Matthew 9:18-26 |
| discuss/ ask | Why do you think Jesus stopped to talk to the woman who was already healed? How do you think she felt afterwards?  How do you think Jairus felt when Jesus stopped? When have you had to stop and wait when something was really, really important, while somebody did something that you felt was less important? Tell the story, and how you felt.  What do you think was more important to Jesus: healing a rich little girl or talking to a poor, sick old woman? Why?  Do you think the girl asked her parents for anything specific to eat? What would you want to eat if you had just come back to life again?  If you were going to play a part in this story, who would you choose to be? Why?  In healing the old lady and the little girl, Jesus was beginning to mend God’s broken world and make sad things come untrue. What are some sad or broken things about this world that you can ask Jesus to heal? | |
| do together | This is a great story to act out! Catching the hem of Jesus’ robe while he passes, tending to the sick girl (feeling her pulse), acting out the professional mourners wailing, getting the girl something to eat – there are many details here that can be fun to highlight with drama. Take turns playing different parts.  Visit somebody who is sick (virtually or in person, if they are not contagious), or make them a card. Make sure that you pray for them and ask Jesus to heal them. In doing this, your family will be joining in with Jesus on his mission to heal a broken world – stepping into God’s Big Story and becoming a part of it. | |