

# Only Believe

Matthew 9:18-26

Mark 5:21-43

Luke 8:41-56

## Life of Jesus: Miracles

(\*The lady was probably not elderly, due to the nature of her illness. It is likely that she touched the sleeve or tassel of Jesus' clothing, and doubtful that she was on the ground, as she would have been trampled by the crowd.)

It is suggested that you read this to the children from the book of Mark, as it gives the most detail. Use the information from the other gospels to insert into the story the extra details.

### Discuss:

Jesus has a LOT of people following him everywhere he goes.

Have you ever been in a large crowd where there were so many people it was hard to move and they had to squeeze through? This is what it was like much of the time for Jesus.

He had just come off a boat, and a whole lot of people were waiting for him. Why would they be waiting for him? What do you think they might be thinking would happen? What were they hoping to see?

Lead to answers such as: the people had heard about something Jesus did; they might be hoping to see a miracle; they may have been interested in listening to Jesus preach; they may have just been curious because they'd heard about him.

A man comes up to Jesus. His name is Jairus, and he is the ruler of the synagogue. A ruler of the synagogue would have been the man who oversaw the synagogue, took care of the building, set the times for services, chose the teachers, and chose the people who did scripture readings.

### Discuss:

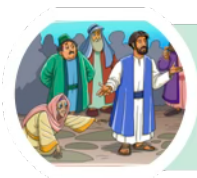
How do you think Jairus got through the crowd?

Answers could include: he had an urgent need, he was a somewhat important man, people knew him; maybe they let him through.

Jairus would have had close relationships with the Pharisees who did not like Jesus. He had to make a decision of whether he was going to honor them, or give honor to Jesus. Should he give more honor to his friends who don't like Jesus and his daughter dies, or give honor to the only man who can help him. Jairus fell down at Jesus' feet. This is placing honor on Jesus, and putting himself under Jesus. What does this look like? Why would he do this? He was *begging* Jesus to come to his house. Why? He was desperate; his only daughter, who was twelve years old, was very sick and about to die. He told Jesus, please come and lay hands on her, and she will live. Did he have faith? Yes. He had faith to believe that if Jesus came to his house, she would be well.

### Discuss:

Jesus and his disciples went with Jairus. A crowd of people followed him and pressed on him. Talk about what this would look like. They're all walking along, a huge crowd of people, and everyone is very close together, touching other people, and everyone is bumping into Jesus.



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In the crowd is a sick lady who has a problem with her blood, and she has been bleeding for twelve years. No one knows this lady is there, or what she is doing; it seems she has come alone. She had spent ALL her money on many different doctors. She suffered many things from many doctors. In those times, they did not know very much about medical things, and they sometimes did strange treatments to try to help people. But the doctors could not help her; she did not get better, but instead she got worse.

This lady heard that Jesus was coming. She came into the crowd from behind and touched his clothes. She had said,

**“If I can just touch his clothes, I will be healed.”**

She also was desperate and had been trying to get healed for many years; the same length of time as Jairus’ daughter had been alive. Jesus was most likely wearing a prayer shawl that the rabbis (teachers) wore. This shawl would have had a fringe on the corners, and the corners were called “wings.” This lady must have known this verse:

**But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings, Malachi 4:2.**

Notice this verse says, “those who fear my name.” This word fear here means: honor, revere, respect, worship - it means that this lady honored the Lord. The Sun of Righteousness means the Messiah; this was a prophecy about Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. By reaching out to touch the wings on Jesus’ clothes, she was acknowledging that Jesus was the Messiah, the Sun of Righteousness, and she knew he had healing even in his clothing. Most likely what she touched were these tassels, or fringe, that probably would have been on the four corners of a prayer shawl he wore over his shirt.

**When the lady touched his clothes, she immediately stopped bleeding and she could feel in her body that she was healed.**

Jesus felt power leave his body. He turned around, and said,

**“Who touched me?”**

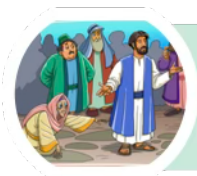
Everybody around him denied touching him, and his disciples said, there’s all these people here thronging and pressing on you, and you are asking, who touched you? They were basically saying, Are you kidding? What do you mean, who touched you? There are so many people here that could have touched you.

But, Jesus responded, SOMEBODY touched me, because I felt POWER go out of me. And he looked around to see who it was.

Discuss:

Power left his body not because someone bumped him, but because someone touched him with FAITH. Were there other people who touched Jesus? Did they get healed? Why did this lady get healed? Because she touched him in faith.

After he asked the question and looked around, the lady came forward, fell down before him and trembled, and told him what she did and why. This lady may have been afraid of His response. According to the Jewish law, she was not supposed to touch anyone because of her illness, because anyone she touched would be unclean. If she had been wrong about this, and she was not healed, she could have been put to death. Discuss this with the students. But the kingdom works the opposite way. Instead of her contaminating Jesus and making him unclean, he made *her* clean.



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Jesus is not upset, he tells her,

**“Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease.”**

What made her well? Her faith.

*While Jesus was still speaking to the lady, a messenger from Jairus’ house came and said,*

**“Do not trouble the Master, your daughter is dead.”**

In other words, don’t bother Jesus, he doesn’t need to come anymore, she’s already dead.

We can speculate on what Jairus was thinking, but we do not know. He may have been wanting to rush Jesus, he might have been frustrated at this interruption; we really do not know. But we are human and we can imagine how he might have felt.

**Jesus knew the power of words.**

Our words have creative power (Proverbs 18:21) and he immediately shut down the conversation. He didn’t let anyone say anything else.

***As soon as he heard the word***

*spoken to Jairus, Jesus said to Jairus,*

**“Do not be afraid, only believe.”**

Jairus had to decide if he was going to put faith in man’s words, or Jesus’ words. He has just heard a word, and he has to decide which word he is going to allow in his heart. Jairus heard, “She’s dead.” If he allows that word in his heart, it will produce fear.

Whether Jairus fears or believes is significant in whether or not his daughter receives her healing. If Jairus expects Jesus to heal his daughter, he cannot allow fear to get in his heart. His faith is crucial to his daughter’s healing. Notice what Jesus had just told the woman a few moments before, “Your faith has made you well...”

When they got to Jairus’ house, it was quite a scene. A lot of people were there crying, and not just crying but weeping and wailing. It was common to hire people to come play music, and they had musicians there playing sad music.

Jesus came into this group and said, *Why are you making such a big deal out of this and are weeping? She is not dead, but sleeping.* Everyone made fun of Jesus and laughed at him and ridiculed him. But Jesus made everyone leave except the father and mother, Peter, James and John, and they went into the room where the girl was.

Jesus put unbelief outside. He did not allow the voices of unbelief and doubt to be in the room with them.

**Fear works against faith.**

He took the girl by the hand, and said, “Child, get up!” She got up, and walked, and he told them to give her something to eat. Everyone was very surprised and astonished, even the parents. But Jesus told them not to tell anyone what happened.

Do you think this was a secret they could keep? What about all the people outside crying? They all thought she was dead, and they must have been astonished too, and probably told EVERYONE what Jesus had done.

# Jesus in the Story



This story is full of so many amazing truths.

The rabbis wore this fringe to remind them to think about the Lord all the time and keep his commandments. The fringe would have had five knots in it, and the four gaps between the knots represent Y H W H. The Hebrews did not add letters to it to make it Yahweh like we do today. They did not utter the name of God because it was holy. The combination of the five knots and the eight strands of thread, put together with the Hebrew word, (which in Hebrew has a numeric value of 600) represents the 613 laws of Moses.

**The lady was giving honor to the Lord, and she knew in her heart that Jesus was the Messiah.**

She must have read the verse in Malachi where she knew healing was available if she just touched his clothes. This was an acknowledgment of WHO Jesus was. When we give Jesus first place in our lives, and give him honor, he gives us a new identity. We do not lose who we are in making Jesus Lord of our lives, instead we find out who we really are. This lady found out she was a child of God, and part of his kingdom. Notice what Jesus calls her in Matthew 9:22, Mark 5:34 and Luke 8:48. He calls her “daughter.”

**This lady got a new identity when she acknowledged Jesus as her Lord.**

Both of these people were desperate. This lady was willing to break the Mosaic law to have a chance at healing. It turned out that Jesus did not condemn her for breaking the law, but comforted her telling her that her faith had made her well.

**There is so much power in our words.**

Jesus knew the creative power of our words, and that speaking death brings death. Speaking life is giving glory to God. He shut down the conversation and did not allow the negative words to be spoken, but immediately countered them with a promise of life.

Jesus also put unbelief and doubt outside. He did not allow them into the room where the girl would be healed. This evil heart of unbelief can hinder faith, and he would not allow it in (Hebrews 3:12).

# Lesson Questions & Memory Verses

## 13. Set Free!

Read Matthew 14:34-36; Mark 6:53-56

Jesus returned to this area later and the people had a different response:

1. Where did the people meet Jesus?
2. What did they bring to Jesus?
3. Who was healed?

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...

## 14. Only Believe

Read Mark 5:27-34; Luke 8:44-48

1. Does this lady ask Jesus to heal her?
2. What happened to her when she touched Jesus?
3. What happened to Jesus when the lady touched him?
4. What did Jesus say made her well?

Malachi 4:2

But to you who fear my name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall fed calves.

## 15. What Do You Have?

1. Who doubted there would be enough?
2. What did the disciples want to tell the people?
3. What did Jesus do with the food after blessing it and giving thanks?
4. How much was left over?

Psalms 23:1-3

The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; he leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

## 16. If It Is You

1. What did Peter say to Jesus?
2. What happened as soon as they stepped into the ship?
3. After seeing this, why were the disciples now convinced that Jesus was the Son of God?

Job 9:8, 10

He alone spreads out the heavens, and treads on the waves of the sea. He does great things past finding out, yes, wonders without number.

