



LESSON 11

Jesus has power over disease and death

MARK 5:21-43



Jesus' power is personal and kind.



“Taking her by the hand he said to her, ‘Talitha cumi,’ which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you, arise.’ And immediately the girl got up” (Mark 5:41–42a).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus has power to heal.
2. Jesus has power to give new life.
3. Jesus uses His power with tender kindness for individuals.
4. Receive Jesus' power and love by faith.
5. Jesus makes the unclean clean.

Objectives

1. Contrast the doctors' failures with Jesus' healing.
2. Contrast the crowd's despair with Jesus' words to Jairus when his daughter dies.
3. List several details that show Jesus' personal care for individuals.
4. Describe the faith of Jairus and the woman.
5. Explain how both the woman and the girl were ceremonially unclean.

STUDY THE BIBLE LESSON

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Lesson Summary

After calming the storm and casting out demons, Jesus sailed back across Galilee. Although a crowd quickly surrounded Him, Jesus saw Jairus' faith and went to heal his daughter. On the way, a bleeding woman touched His robe and was instantly healed. Despite the rush, Jesus took time to identify who she was and encourage her faith. Meanwhile, Jairus' daughter died, and people thought it was too late. But with tender words and a tender touch, Jesus raised her from the dead.

Spotlight on the Gospel

These two miracles show that Jesus is powerful, but also personal and kind. If He were not powerful, He could not heal our souls, cleanse our sins, and give us eternal life. If He were not personal and kind, He would not care to save us. But since He is powerful and personal and kind, He is able and willing to save us. So come to Him in the only way that saves: by faith, like Jairus and the bleeding woman.

LAST WEEK



Jesus demonstrates His authority
Luke 8:22–39

THIS WEEK



Jesus has power over disease and death
Mark 5:21–43

NEXT WEEK



Jesus feeds the 5,000
John 6:1–15

JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE

Lesson Commentary

Jesus' power is personal and kind.

Many times, powerful leaders become lost in their own power. Instead of serving others, they serve only themselves. But not Jesus. He had unrivaled power and authority, yet He used this miraculous power to help the hurting, the weak, and the lost. Just last week we saw how Jesus calmed the storm and cast out thousands of demons by His word alone (Mark 4:35–5:20). Yet these two miracles, in addition to displaying Jesus' deity, demonstrated the Son of God's tender compassion. He pays attention to those in need and makes His great power available to those who trust in Him.

A father trusted Jesus (5:21–24)

Jesus made Himself available despite the strain of ministry. It is likely He was tired, having just returned from calming the storm and casting out demons. He was also busy, having been surrounded by a “great crowd” as soon as He stepped off the boat (5:21; Luke 8:40). Yet despite these demands on His time and energy, Jesus was ready to hear the plea of one man who came to Him in faith.

This man, Jairus, had humble faith. As one chosen to help take care of the synagogue, he would have been well-respected. Yet God used tragedy to humble him, allowing his daughter—his only daughter—to become so sick that she was on the verge of death (Luke 8:42). So Jairus fell before Jesus and kept begging Him to come and heal his daughter (Mark 5:22–23a). He had no concern for the crowd—what his friends

and neighbors might think. He cared only for Jesus. This humility is precious, because *faith* is admitting your own weakness and clinging only to Jesus.

Jairus also had confident faith. Jesus' previous miracles had convinced Jairus that Jesus was able to heal his daughter. He shows that true *faith* is confidence in the person of Christ Himself, not in

emotional experiences or religious systems or personal opinions.

A woman trusted Jesus (5:25–28)

Like Jairus, the bleeding woman was desperate. She had been sick for twelve years, and all the doctors had made her worse, not better (5:25–26). She was also bankrupt, having spent all her money seeking a cure. But her troubles did not end there. Her health problem was also a religious and social problem, because the continuous bleeding made her permanently unclean (Lev 15:25–31). She could not join in worship at the temple, and people avoided touching her, since that would make them temporarily unclean too.

Yet this woman—untouched for so many years—reached out and touched Jesus' robe (Mark 5:27).

That touch was an act of faith. It was humble faith, as the woman had exhausted her own resources. And it was confident faith. She touched the robe, not because the robe was special, but because the robe was worn by Jesus Christ. It was a person, not a piece of clothing, that had become the object of her faith.

Jesus showed power and pity to the woman (5:29–34)

Power flowed from Jesus immediately (5:29–30). What human doctors failed to do in twelve years, Jesus did in an instant. This healing was powerful, but it was also personal. Despite the crowd pressing against Him, Jesus felt power flow out of Him into the woman (5:30). Not only did He personally feel the power, but He was also willing to be interrupted. Jesus was on an urgent mission, but He paused to minister to the woman. He asked who touched Him because He truly cared for the woman; she was not just a case of sickness to be healed.

THINK ABOUT IT

Like the bleeding woman, we are all unclean before God (Isa 64:6).



THINK ABOUT IT

There is no such thing as proud faith.

THINK ABOUT IT

Despite the crowds, Jesus cares about each person individually.



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Realizing what Jesus had done for her, she stood in awe of Him, just as the disciples had after the storm (Luke 8:25). Yet unlike the disciples, her faith was strong. Although the crowd would have been offended that an unclean person had been touching them as she pushed her way to Jesus, she publicly declared both her disease and the power of Jesus' healing (Luke 8:47). In response to her faith, Jesus declared the best news, literally, "Daughter, your faith has saved you" (Mark 5:34). In other words, He brought her more than physical healing. He saved her soul and made her a child of God. This shows that **salvation** is not just physical or spiritual: it is the undoing of every evil of the curse. The woman's healing, both physical and spiritual, is a taste of the total salvation that all believers will one day enjoy in eternity.

But what did Jesus mean when He said that it was her faith that saved her (5:34)? Did her faith somehow make her worthy enough to be saved? Not at all. Faith does not earn the right to be saved, since then salvation would not be a gift (Rom 4:1–16). Even faith itself is a gift from God (Eph 2:8). **Faith** is simply the way we come to Jesus, the way we receive God's free gift of salvation.

Jesus showed power and pity to the daughter (5:35–43)

But now another problem arises: while Jesus was delaying, Jairus' daughter died (Mark 5:35). While many believed Jesus could heal, most still underestimated His power. Disease was one thing, but who could raise the dead? Most thought Jesus was now powerless to help. Messengers from Jairus' house urged Jairus to leave Jesus alone (5:35). Those at the house wailed and mourned (5:38), because apart from Jesus, there is no hope in the face of death (1 Thess 4:13). But Jesus told Jairus, "Do not fear" (Mark 5:36), since those who fear Jesus need not fear anything else. Second, Jesus said, literally, "Keep believing." Jesus urges everyone who trusts Him to keep trusting even when things get worse.

But why did Jesus say that the girl was only asleep (5:39), since we know she was truly dead (5:35;

Matt 9:18; Luke 8:53, 55)? In one sense, Jesus was explaining what death is like for believers. Death is as temporary and harmless as falling asleep, and just as one wakes up from a good sleep refreshed, so the believer awakes from death into new life (1 Thess 4:13–14). But this girl's death was also like sleep in that her condition was temporary, she had not yet passed through death once and for all.

Jesus was calm and caring, but the crowd was chaotic and caustic (Mark 5:40). Their mocking laughter shows that their grief was not genuine. They were following the Jewish rules for mourning at a funeral, but they did not really care about Jairus or his daughter. They also showed they did not really know Jesus, because they did not fear Him. They did not take Him seriously, for they were clueless of His true power.

Then Jesus poured out His power and compassion again. Even though touching a dead person would make him ceremonially unclean (Num 19:11–22), Jesus took the girl by the hand (Mark 5:41). He also called her "talitha," which literally means "little lamb," as a father might speak tenderly to a daughter he loves. So with a gentle touch and gentle words, Jesus poured God's power of life into her. In a moment, she went from dead to walking around! Can you imagine? Just when the disciples thought they had seen it all with the storm and the demons, they saw even more remarkable power: the power to raise the dead.

While they stood in stunned amazement, Jesus showed once again His tender love by reminding them to get food for the girl (Mark 5:43). He also urged secrecy, allowing time for the family to be together before the news got out. This is the Lord we are called to worship: He is powerful, personal, and kind. He pays attention, notices, and provides according to each individual's needs. He is one we can trust, and He is worth all our love. He has also left us an example, to humbly love and care for others as He did.

THINK ABOUT IT

Jesus also raised Himself from the dead—the greatest demonstration of His power (Phil 3:10).



Lesson Outline

Jesus' power is personal and kind.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



Trust Jesus because . . .

1. He powerfully heals and gives new life.
2. He lovingly cares for people who trust Him.

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. **A father trusted Jesus (5:21–24).**
 - Problem: Jairus' daughter was about to die (5:21–23a).
 - Faith: Jairus trusted in Jesus' power to heal (5:23b–24).
2. **A woman trusted Jesus (5:25–28).**
 - Problem: A woman had incurable and unclean bleeding (5:25–26).
 - Faith: The woman trusted Jesus and touched His robe (5:27–28).
3. **Jesus showed power and pity to the woman (5:29–34).**
 - Power: The woman was healed instantly (5:29).
 - Pity: Jesus cared for the woman (5:30–32, 34).
 - Awe: The woman feared and trembled (5:33).
4. **Jesus showed power and pity to the daughter (5:35–43).**
 - Problem: Jairus' daughter died (5:35).
 - Power: Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (5:36–42a).
 - Awe: Those who saw were astonished (5:42b).
 - Pity: Jesus cared for the girl (5:43).



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Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

- 1. Why did Jairus come to Jesus?**
His daughter was sick and dying.
- 2. What happened to the girl before Jesus got there?**
She died.
- 3. Now that she was dead, was there anything Jesus could do?**
Yes. He raised her from the dead!
- 4. How did Jesus show kindness to the girl?**
He held her hand, called her “little lamb,” made sure she got food to eat, and made sure the crowd left her alone for a little bit.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

- 1. How do you know Jairus had true faith?**
He fell humbly before Jesus and was confident in Jesus' power.
- 2. What was wrong with the woman who touched Jesus?**
She had bleeding that wouldn't stop for twelve years, she had spent all her money, doctors only made it worse, and she was ceremonially unclean.
- 3. What did her instant healing show about Jesus?**
It showed Jesus' great power.
- 4. How did Jesus show personal care for the woman?**
He felt the power go out of Him, and He took time to find her and confirm her faith.
- 5. What emotion did the woman feel when Jesus asked for her?**
She felt fear—awe and reverence because she was in the presence of someone so powerful.
- 6. Did Jesus only heal her bod?**
No. He saved her. He cleansed her body and soul.
- 7. Did the people mourning at Jairus' house fear Jesus?**
No. They laughed at Him. They didn't know how powerful He is.
- 8. When Jairus' daughter died, and things got worse, what did Jesus tell him?**
Keep believing.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



INTRODUCE

WHO TOOK THE CLOTHESPIN?

Wear a bathrobe over your clothes. Attach several dozen clothespins to it. With your back to the class, have a child come up and take off one of the clothespins. After the child returns to his seat, turn around and try to figure out who took the clothespin. After allowing a few more children to try, talk about how hard it is to know who took the clothespin. However, in today's lesson, we are going to see that Jesus, even with his back turned, knew the exact woman who touched him from the crowd.

READY OR NOT WHO IS UNCLEAN?

Designate one person as unclean. Play a game of tag with the one unclean person trying to touch the rest of the class. If touched by their unclean classmate, they immediately become unclean as well. They in turn begin to try to tag the rest who are still clean. Use this game to introduce the condition of the woman in today's lesson. For twelve years she had bled, making her ceremonially unclean. Because of her uncleanness, people would have avoided her and she could not worship in the temple.



ILLUSTRATE

MEDICAL PROPS

Use a girl doll and a medical kit. As each medical prop (i.e., stethoscope, bandages, medicine) is used to heal the sick girl, ask "did the (bandage) heal the girl?" "No." After the last medical prop, tell them that the girl died and there was nothing the doctors could do to heal her.

ON A MISSION!

Similar to "Red Light, Green Light." As long as your back is to the class, the children are allowed to slowly walk toward you. The object is to get close enough to touch part of your shirt. When you turn around, they are to immediately stop. As long as you are not facing them, they are free to approach you. If a child fails to stop when you turn around, they are immediately out. The first child to touch you wins. This game represents the way in which the woman in today's lesson approached Jesus to be healed. Because of her fear, she approached Jesus from behind while He was in a large crowd. The woman believed that she needed only to touch the edge of Jesus' robe in order to be healed of her bleeding.



APPLY

HANDS OF FAITH AND POWER

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheet, glue, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Give each student the hand outline craft sheet. Instruct students to fold on the dotted line and cut out the hand along the solid lines. Unfold the hands. Cut out and paste the verses, title, and application to the appropriate places on the hands. The verse that demonstrates faith should be glued to the hand that says "Faith." The verse that demonstrates power should be glued to the hand that says "Power." Fold the hands together and glue the title to the front and the application to the back.

Hands of Faith and Power
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1



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AGES 6–8



GROUP PARTICIPATION

This lesson contains many different human emotions. Allow the class to participate by preparing cue cards before class. Prepare cards that say: “sadness” (Mark 5:22–23, 35), “pain” (5:26), “excitement” (5:29), “fear” (5:33), “crying” (5:38), “laughing/mocking” (5:40), and “amazement” (5:42). Hold the cards up during the lesson at the appropriate time and encourage the children to demonstrate these emotions. You might recognize the child with the most accurate displays.

COMPASSION

Compassion involves understanding other people’s suffering and doing what you can to alleviate it. Children are often not compassionate because they do not yet understand other people’s suffering or desire to help them. They understand their own pain more readily. Ask them if they have ever been badly hurt or very sad or lost or tired. Who helped them? Have they ever helped somebody else? Why, what motivated them? What would they do if no one could help them or cared to help them? In today’s lesson, we will learn about two people who had such a serious problem that nobody could help them. Nobody, that is, but Jesus.



FUNERAL SCENE

Describe what funerals were like in Israel. There was supposed to be weeping and wailing, tearing clothes, and flutes playing discordant music. Some of the people mourning were professional mourners, paid to do so to help set the mood. If you’re brave, simulate this in the class to give a feel of the chaotic scene Jesus met at the house. Have some children wail, others play recorders or just whistle, and bring some rags to tear (maybe pre-cut to help).

RULER OF THE SYNAGOGUE

Ask the children to describe the responsibilities of someone who helps take care of the church (or a school). Show that the person for this job needs to be someone who is trustworthy, responsible, and a good leader. Explain that Jairus was one of the ones in charge of taking care of the synagogue. This would have included caring for the building, the scrolls, the people, and the events.

Jesus Heals Jairus’ Daughter
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1



JESUS HEALS JARIUS’ DAUGHTER

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheets, cardstock, hole punch, glue, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Give each student a blank piece of cardstock. Explain what the room may have looked like where Jairus’ daughter was lying. Instruct students to draw her room but leave out the bed (this will be added later). Have students cut out Jairus’ daughter, her arm, her bed and Jesus. Next, have the students glue the bed where they think it might have been in the room (be sure that students put the bed on the appropriate side and give room for Jesus). Using a brad, punch a hole through the appropriate dots on the girl’s shoulder and arm, the girl’s waist and through the bed. When completed the girl will stand up and reach out to Jesus’ extended hand.



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

A SHOW OFF

Ask the children to identify the different ways famous athletes celebrate and draw attention to themselves after a good play (you may even show a video clip). Ask the children what these displays reveal. Do they reveal someone who is humble and kind, or do they reveal someone who likes to show off and brag? In today's lesson, we'll meet a real hero: someone who used His incredible power to save others, not serve Himself.

911

The events in today's lesson resemble a "911" call. Introduce the lesson with a short skit in which a frantic father dials 911 requesting urgent help for his dying daughter. On route they encounter another accident and the driver must decide whether to continue on or deal with the situation at hand. While they are still dealing with the accident, the father calls in again to inform them that his daughter has died and they no longer need to come. The operator informs the man that they will be coming in anyway, but will they be able to save the daughter? There is someone who can, and we'll learn about Him in today's lesson.



ILLUSTRATE

LIVING ILLUSTRATION

To help the children see this as real, have a twelve-year-old girl come up as you talk about Jairus' daughter being sick and dying.

RESURRECTION

In one short journey, Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead. Sometimes children do not quite grasp the finality of death and, therefore, the miracle of resurrection. Talk about a time you witnessed something break (window, dinner glass or plate, cell phone screen, etc.). Talk about what was done to fix it—if anything could be done. What about death? Is there anything we can do to reverse it? There is only One with the power to reverse death and grant life: Jesus.



APPLY

TERMINAL ILLNESS

In today's lesson Jesus demonstrated that He is able to heal a sickness which had plagued someone for her entire life. By raising the girl from the dead, He proved that He has power over death. Ask the children if they know what a "terminal illness" is. Explain that a terminal illness is a sickness or disease that cannot be cured or treated and will likely lead to death. Ask the children if they can identify any common terminal illnesses: cancer, AIDS, Lou Gehrig's disease, heart disease, liver failure, etc. Ask the children if they have a terminal illness. If they say, "No," explain that every person is born with a terminal illness: sin (Rom 5:12). Explain to them how serious their sin is and what the eternal consequences for sin are. Will they trust Jesus in faith like the characters from today's lesson?