Learn by Doing



Choice Little Girl Arise

Jairus’s daughter lies at home sick to the point of death. A crowd has gathered and is crying, thinking she has died. Jesus is summoned and sends the crowd away on His arrival. Gently extending His hand He calls her to get up. Act out this healing miracle with simple costumes and props.



1. Set the room up to act out the story.
2. Assign parts to the children. If you do not have enough children for all of the parts, double up on parts. If more than one child wants to play a particular character, act the story out more than once.
3. *Optional*: dress the children in costumes.
4. Using *Little Girl Arise* (p. 2), read the story aloud, pausing to direct the children as they act it out.
5. If there is time, repeat the play. Children may be able to act out the story with less help the second time.
6. *Optional*: Jairus’s daughter is given food at the end of the story. Offer a snack.

Materials Needed

Optional: Costumes and props. For simple costumes, find a white shirt to distinguish Jesus and shirts of different colors for other characters. If you do not have a costume box, turn larger T-shirts inside out to hide logos. Props might include a bed (a pillow and folded blanket on the floor) for Jairus’s daughter, chairs to outline Jairus’s house, and rope or string to outline the road.
Optional: food, such as grapes, sliced apple, crackers, etc.

Prepare in Advance

Read through the script, *Little Girl Arise* on p. 2. Decide how you will set up the space to act out the story. *Optional*: gather costumes and props.

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Little Girl Arise

Roles: Jesus, Jairus, Jairus's Wife, Person Coming from Jairus's House, Girl, Peter, James, John, Crowds

Set-Up: Choose a place for Jairus's house. Use a barrier such as a row of chairs or rope on the floor to set the space apart. Jairus's daughter is sleeping there. Choose a place for the road. It could be up and down a hallway, or around the outside of the room.

Optional Costumes: T-shirts, belts or shawls are all that's needed. These may help children remain in the sphere of the Word while acting.

The teacher reads the story aloud, pausing to direct the action. Jairus, Jairus's Wife, Girl, and Person Coming from Jairus's House all start in the house. Everyone else starts on the other side of the acting area on the "road".

Story to Read	Actions
And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue came, Jairus by name. And when he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet and begged Him, saying,	Jesus walks along the road with a crowd. Jairus comes up to Jesus and falls down on the ground.
"My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live."	The crowd stands still. Jairus folds his hands, begging.
So Jesus went with him, and many people followed Him and crowded around Him.	Jesus nods, yes, and walks along the road with Jairus and the crowd.
While Jesus was coming, a person came from Jairus's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"	A person comes from Jairus's house, points back toward it and shakes his head. Jesus and the crowd stop to listen.
As soon as Jesus heard that, He said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid; only believe."	Jesus puts a hand on Jairus's shoulder.
And He did not allow anyone to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.	Jesus and Jairus walk toward the house with Peter, James and John following. The crowd moves into the house (perhaps walking around the edge of the acting space to get there).
Then He came to Jairus's house, and there was a big uproar with people crying loudly. When He came in, Jesus said to them, "Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping." And they made fun of Him.	The crowd is noisy. Jesus arrives and gestures to the girl. The crowd points and laughs.
But when He had put them all outside, Jesus took the father and the mother of the child, and those who were with Him, and entered where the child was lying.	Jesus sends the crowd outside. Jesus, Jairus, and Jairus's wife go to the girl.
Then He took the child by the hand, and said to her, "Talitha, cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise." Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was twelve years of age.	Jesus reaches out His hand and takes the girl's hand. She sits up, then stands up and walks around the house.
And they were amazed. But Jesus commanded them that no one should know it, and said that something should be given her to eat.	The disciples and parents look surprised. They bring the girl food.

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