

**Choice****Talitha Cumi**

Experience the story of Jesus healing Jairus's daughter by acting it out through book-in-hand theater.

1. Assign parts with student input. *Note:* Parts require different levels of reading proficiency. The Narrator and Jesus have more lines; the little girl has no lines. If non-readers choose reading parts, the teacher can read for them or say the line and then have them repeat it. If you have a small group, have students double up on parts.
2. Distribute costumes and scripts. Help children find their starting places as noted at the beginning of the script.
4. Repeat the play if there is interest in doing it again. Switch parts.
5. *Optional:* Share a snack with Jairus's daughter at the end of the play.

**Materials Needed**

*Talitha Cumi* pp. 63-64 for each child

*Props:* bed for Jairus's daughter (folded blanket, pillow), chairs to show Jairus's house, rope to outline roadway, food for daughter

*Costumes:* large T-shirts turned inside out to hide logos, etc.

*Optional:* food to share with everyone after the play

**Prepare in Advance**

Gather props and costumes. Decide how to set up your space. Use a larger space in your building if possible, or take the story outside to give the feeling of travel and time.



# Talitha Cumi

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

**Props:** blanket, pillow, rope to outline roadway (optional), food for Jairus's daughter

**Optional Costumes:** T-shirts, belts or shawls

**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. Inside the house, arrange the blanket and pillow as a bed for the Girl. Choose a place for the road. It could be up and down a hallway, or around the outside of the room. You may wish to outline the road with a rope.

*The Girl is lying on the bed.*

*Jairus's Wife and the Person from Jairus's House stand beside her.*

*Jesus, Peter, James, John and the Crowd are at the other end of the roadway.*

*Jairus stands half way in between the house and the Crowd.*

**Narrator:** And behold, one of the rulers of the synagogue called Jairus came to Jesus. And when he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet.

*Jairus*

*Jairus hurries up and falls down on the ground before Jesus.*

*Jairus is on his knees, holding his hands up, begging Jesus to help.*

**Jairus:** My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and will live.

**Narrator:**

*Jesus, Jairus, Crowd*

*Jesus nods yes. Jairus stands up. Jesus, Jairus and the crowd start to walk towards Jairus's house.*

So Jesus went with him. And many people followed Him and crowded around Him. Then someone came from Jairus's house.

**Person from  
Jairus's House:**

*The Person runs out to meet Jesus and Jairus. The person is upset.*

Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?

**Jesus:**

*Jesus looks at Jairus and speaks calmly.*

Do not be afraid; only believe.

**Narrator:**

*Jesus, Jairus,  
Disciples, Crowd*

And He permitted no one to follow Him except Peter, James, and John the brother of James.

*Jesus motions to Jairus and His disciples. They follow Him toward Jairus's house. The crowd walks offstage or around the edge of the acting space and stands in and around Jairus's house.*

**Narrator:**

*Jesus, Jairus,  
Disciples, Crowd*

*The crowd is noisy. Jesus and His disciples arrive at the house with Jairus.*

Then He came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and saw a large crowd of people crying and making a loud noise.

## Talitha Cumi *continued*

**Jesus:** *Jesus talks to the crowd.*

Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.

**Crowd:** *Each person in the crowd says one or more of the following loudly at the same time:*

She is dead.

He thinks he can bring her back to life.

Nobody can make a dead person live!

Who is this man?

What does he think he can do?

Why is he coming here?

He is too late to help.

**Jesus:** *Jesus talks and motions to the crowd.*

*Crowd* Everyone must get out of the house.

*The crowd moves out of the house and off a little way.*

**Jesus:** Come with me.

*Disciples, Jairus* *Jesus, His Disciples, and Jairus go into the house and come and stand by Jairus' wife by the bed.*

**Jesus:** *Jesus takes the Girl's hand.*

*Girl* Talitha cumi. Little girl, I say to you, arise.

*Girl opens her eyes, sits up holding Jesus' hand. Then she stands up and walks around the house.*

**Parents:** *Each chooses something to say in amazement. All speak at once.*

**Peter:** I can't believe it!

**James:** She is alive!

**John:** Praise the Lord!

Thank you Jesus!

This is amazing!

**Jesus:** *Jesus looks at Jairus and his Wife.*

Do not tell anyone about this. Please give her something to eat.

*Jairus and his Wife give the Girl some food. The play ends.*