

Adventures with GOD!

JAIRUS, THE ONE WHO WAS PATIENT (B.3.SPRING.11)

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| Biblical Reference | Luke 8:40-56 |
| Key Verse | Luke 8:50 |
| Key Concept | No matter what the circumstance, I can trust God. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain or draw an “obstacle” 2. Give an example of how the Christian life is not always easy 3. Share an experience of God’s care |

Life Application

It’s difficult to accept the painful and sad moments that occur in our lives. Yet, God is with us and waits with us, no matter what the circumstance. When we are facing hard times we can trust in God’s faithfulness and provision. This lesson is about patient waiting and trust. We can trust God at all times.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| My GROW Adventure | GROW Adventure materials | 5 minutes |
| Opening Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Bible Reading | Bible | 5 minutes |
| Introduction | Plastic spoons, dried beans, bowls | 5 minutes |
| Bible Exploration | Bible, time machine | 10 minutes |
| Activity | See instructions | 10 minutes |
| Key Verse | Note cards, tape | 10 minutes |
| My GROW Adventure | Review | 5 minutes |
| Closing Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Bible Reading: Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched, palms up, to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 8:40-56 twice and ask children to respond.

Question Examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Introduction: This is a simple activity that emphasizes the fact that we depend on each other and work together to overcome obstacles. Divide the class in two teams and name a captain for each team. For this game you will need plastic spoons (one for each child), some beans, and big tubs or bowls. This game is a type of obstacle course where the goal is to empty one bowl of beans and to then fill the other bowl (on the other side of the room) with beans. Children will work together as a team, taking turns loading up a spoon, holding the spoon in their mouths and then walking from the one side of the room to the other. At the starting point, have one bowl or tub full of beans. Each team will have a smaller bowl to fill on the other side. Place



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obstacles in the way. The captain will begin, and after the captain returns to the team, another player will continue. Set a time limit and see how many beans each team gets in their bowl.

Bible Exploration: You may choose to use the time machine this week and the sample dialogue found on pages 5-7. Pass out the questions for children to ask the visitor. Invite a child to come up and start the time machine. The visitor should appear after the time machine is started up. This dialogue is a little longer, so the teacher can help to answer the questions, or you can choose to not use the time machine and have children act out the story as the teacher narrates it. The story is based on Luke 8:40-56.

After the dialogue or drama, ask children questions about what obstacles Jairus overcame. Who was there to help Jairus? Why was it important for Jairus to be patient and wait his turn as Jesus healed the woman in the crowd? What would have happened if Jairus was selfish and took Jesus away from the woman who needed healing? What was the result of Jairus's patience? Ask children to imagine being in the crowd. What noises did they hear? What did they see? Smell? How did they react when Jairus approached Jesus? When the woman approached Jesus?

Dialogue with the children about how we feel when the Christian life gets difficult. Ask children about different circumstances they have experienced, where it was hard for them to trust God. Have them draw a picture or talk about a particular time in their lives when it felt like there was an obstacle, and it was hard to trust God.

Activity: Ask the children to help you put the events of Jairus's life in order (found in Luke 8:40-56). Get creative! Consider breaking them into groups and assigning each group a particular set of verses. Or have children mime a part of the story and have others in the group have to guess. Think about all the different elements in the story: the sick girl, Jairus, Jesus, the crowd, the sick woman who touched Jesus' tuic, Peter, a friend who advises Jairus of his daughter's death, the people at the house that mock them, Jesus with Peter, James and John, etc.

Key Verse: Write the words of the Key Verse out on note cards (one card for each word) and tape them up on the board or the wall. Read the verse together several times, then invite the children to come up and take turns removing a notecard. Then have them put it back together.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:



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G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O=Outward Action: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

W=Worship: Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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BIBLE EXPLORATION

Questions for Jairus

Question #1 – Who are you?

Jairus – I am Jairus, a Jewish leader in my town. Excuse me for my excitement. I don't know whether to cry or scream for joy. Would you allow me to tell you why I'm so excited?

Question #2 – Of course, what is going on?

Jairus – What hasn't happened today? First I am a husband and father. I have a 12 year old daughter who I love very much. That's why it was so horrible when she got sick, very, very sick. It didn't matter what the doctors did, nothing was helping her to get better. I started to feel anguish and fear.

Question #3 – What happened? Did she get better?

Jairus – No, nothing would help her. So I found out that Jesus of Nazareth, the great prophet, was teaching in our region. I heard that he had the power to heal people. I immediately left my family and went as quickly as I could to find him. There was a huge crowd, but I made my way forward and asked where he was. There were so many people it was hard to find him, and I started to get desperate.

Question #4 – What did you do next?

Jairus – What would you have done if you were in my shoes? I began to move forward in the crowd, pushing my way through until I was face to face with him. He stopped what he was doing and listened to me. I begged him to come to my house and save my daughter.

Question #5 – And what did Jesus do?

Jairus – Thank God he said yes! I thought my heart would leap out of my chest because of my joy. I knew that if he could come with me my daughter would be healed. I noticed that Jesus stopped walking with me and was looking around, like he was trying to find someone. He asked, "Who touched me?" For a while no one responded. I was so frustrated – I wanted to keep

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moving. Every second we waited put my daughter's life in danger. Jesus insisted, "Someone touched me. I felt power go out of me." Finally someone answered him, "I touched you," said a woman.

Question #6 – Who was she? Why did she touch Jesus?

Jairus – She was an older woman. Frail and sick. She bravely spoke saying that for 14 years she had an illness that couldn't be cured. She spent all of her money on doctors and treatments and nothing could be done to help her. She was in so much anguish. She, too, had heard about Jesus and thought if she could just get close enough to touch him, she would be healed. Jesus looked at her and told her that because of her faith she was healed and could go in peace. And she left, healed.

Question #7 – Amazing! So what did you do then?

Jairus – We started walking again toward my house, and the closer we got, the more anxious I became. I thought about what would happen if we didn't get there in time. And then my worst fears came true. Some friends from my town appeared to tell me not to bother Jesus. Your daughter is dead, they said. It was the worst moment of my life. My last hope had been Jesus, and because of the time he spent helping the sick woman, he couldn't help my daughter. But then Jesus did the most surprising thing.

Question #8 – What did Jesus do?

Jairus – He told me not to be afraid, but to trust him and she would be saved. And he kept walking with me to my house. I was hoping my friends were wrong, but as soon as we got to my house I knew it was true. The whole town was there in mourning. They were crying and yelling in disbelief. Jesus didn't pay attention to them but focused on me. He told me again to not be scared, but to believe that she wasn't dead – she was only dreaming. The neighbors laughed at him when they heard this. They just witnessed her death.

Question #9 – What happened next?

Jairus – Jesus ignored their criticism and instead called my wife, three of his disciples, and myself to accompany him in my daughter's bedroom. He took her hand and spoke in our language. He told her to wake up. And she did. It was a miracle. He told us to get something for her to eat and we did. The mourning turned into joy because our little girl had been healed.

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Which is why I need to be going. I don't want to miss the celebration. It's amazing what happens when you trust God.