



I Spy

Jairus' Daughter is Alive

BIG IDEA: Jesus can do anything.

BIBLE BASIS: Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

KEY VERSE: "With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 (NirV)

SCHEDULE

2S & 3S CLASSES

ARRIVAL & PLAYTIME

10:30-10:55

2S & 3S LARGE GROUP

10:55-11:10

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

11:10-12:00

PRE-K & K CLASSES

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

10:30-11:15

PRE-K & KINDER LARGE GROUP

11:15-11:40

REVIEW ACTIVITIES

11:40-12:00

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LEADER DEVOTIONAL

Before going any farther, read the story of Jairus' daughter in Luke 8:40-42 and 49-56. Usually, I read this story through the lens of the adults that were present. I connect with the stress in the parents, the sadness in the family, the surprise and faith in the disciples. However, I don't often think about the daughter's perspective. What was this all like for her?

Ugh, I feel terrible. Every part of me hurts. Mom is trying to get me to eat, but I'm not hungry. I don't think that food will stay down. I don't want to throw up. My head hurts. Everything hurts. I'm hot and cold at the same time. Dad looks really worried. He and Mom are talking. I wonder where he's going. Ow. I just want to sleep. Why are there so many people here? They all look so scared. I don't want them to cry. This room is getting dark. I feel so far away... Who is this man? He looks so kind. Where did everyone go? Mom and Dad look so surprised. I feel so much better! What happened? Hey, is there any food left?

If I had to guess, this is what I'd imagine was running through the mind of Jairus' daughter during the events of Luke 8. By looking at her perspective, we get a quick view of how kids experience Jesus' healing power. At least in this particular story, the daughter experiences Jesus through the faith of her dad. Without Jairus running to get Jesus, the daughter would never know that the Son of God had the power to heal. In fact, her stakes were even higher — without Jesus, she would literally have been dead! I can only imagine that her life was radically changed from that point forward — I'd bet that every time she even felt mildly ill, she went straight to God before wasting time on any other avenues.

This week, you have the opportunity to be Jairus to the kids in your ministry. You are bringing Jesus to these kids in the form of a story. Even though you might be repeating a fact about God that you've known for years, the kids won't see it that way. They'll be amazed that God can do anything — the very same God that created planets and solar systems cares about us when we feel under the weather. God can heal things that medical treatment never can, including death! How different is life when you know that you can take your pain to Jesus and He can heal you? It is an incredible part of life with Jesus, and it will transform the lives of the kids forever!

Patrick Thompson
GO! Contributor



LARGE GROUP SKILL BUILDING

How to Prepare Like a Champ for Large Group

Here's a short story for you: A man gets up in front of a room full of kids and, with no forethought or preparation, he delivers a spellbinding and life-changing message. The kids are so grateful that they carry the man out of the room on their shoulders as confetti cannons explode. Great story, right? Unfortunately, you'll find it under "fiction." Great messages don't just happen without a little work on the part of the communicator. In short, your goal as the Large Group Leader is to communicate God's truth to kids in an engaging way so that life change can happen. To do that effectively, though, you've got to do a little prep work. Here are a few ways you can prepare:

Live the message. Authenticity is one of the most important traits of a good communicator. When we tell kids that they need to be pursuing God, they need to know we're doing that ourselves. That doesn't mean you have to be perfect; it just means that you have to be working towards living out the message in your own life.

Memorize. Sounds scary, right? It doesn't have to be. We'll spend more time in the future talking about how to memorize, but for now let's just say this: Effective communicators memorize. When you're tied to a script, you lose eye contact and your body becomes less animated. And when that happens, your level of engagement goes down. If you've never memorized before, start small. Pick a section of the lesson to memorize and pay attention to the difference it makes with your audience.

Rehearse. In short, don't let service time be the first time you've ever delivered your message. It might seem awkward at first, but run through your message a few times in advance. If possible, do it in the actual space where you'll be teaching.

Pray. When we deliver God's message, we're not alone. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be your co-teacher!

7.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



UNIT DESCRIPTION

I spy with my little eye — I spy down low, and I spy up high! During “I Spy,” preschoolers will need to put on their looking eyes to look high and low for the hidden objects. Once found, each object will help tell a portion of the Bible story. It’s an eye-opening experience that teaches kids to follow and obey Jesus, our all-powerful Savior.

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS

- Print the “Goldfish” picture on 8½” x 11” paper and tape it to a wall in the preschool room.
- Place the following items somewhere in the preschool room:
 - Box of Kleenex®
 - Pillow
- Create a “Super Duper Bible Box” and place your storytelling Bible inside. This box will be used every week. See the Resource Folder for details on how to make the “Super Duper Bible Box.”
- If using the non-video options for the Topher segments of the lesson, print the Topher’s Storytime Rules signs and Topher’s Big Idea signs on 8½” x 11” cardstock paper and place in the story time area. See “Getting Started” in the Resource Folder for the printable signs and for more instructions on how to perform the non-video options.
- Note: Any media repeated throughout the unit, such as the Topher videos and the title slide, is located in the Lesson 1 Resource Folder only.

7.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



★ LARGE GROUP LESSON

WELCOME AND MUSIC

Music: Play one or two upbeat worship songs

BIG IDEA AND BIBLE VERSE

Large Group Leader: Hello, everybody! I spy with my little eye...a whole bunch of kids who are ready to learn about Jesus. Do you know who I'm talking about? (*Children respond.*) That's right — it's YOU! (*Point to children.*) In just a little bit, we're going to play a game of "I Spy." All of the things we spy are going to help us learn about Jesus.

Say: Today's true Bible story is going to teach us that **Jesus can do anything**. That's our Big Idea for the day. Let's say it together. (*Repeat Big Idea with children.*) **Jesus can do anything**. It's true! **Jesus can do anything**. In fact, that's what our memory verse from the Bible tells us. Let me teach it to you.

*"With people (point to all the children),
this is impossible (two thumbs down and shake head "no").
But with God (point up),
all things are possible (two thumbs up and shake head "yes")."
Matthew 19:26 (extend hands like you're holding a book).*

Say: Let's do that together. (*Repeat memory verse with children two or three times.*)

2s & 3s - STORY TIME RULES

Say: Wow — nice job! I think you are ready for the Bible story. Before we get started, though, I think we should go over our three story time rules.

Video: Play "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video

(Note: Play the "Topher the Gopher Story Time Rules" video or use the Story Time Rules script found in the Resource Folder.)

Pre-K & K - Bible Trivia

- Who Wrote the book of Matthew? (Matthew)
- Who wrote the book of Mark? (Mark)
- Who wrote the book of Luke? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of John? (John)
- Who wrote the book of Acts? (Luke)
- Who wrote the book of Romans? (Paul)
- The Bible is split into two parts. What are they called? (The Old & New Testament)
- What is the difference? (Jesus was born in the New Testament)

7.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



ISPY INTRO

Say: Let's do our first "I spy." I spy with my little eye...something orange. *(Continue giving clues until the children find the picture of a goldfish.)* Way to go — it's a goldfish. Have any of you ever had a pet goldfish before? *(Children respond.)* Goldfish can be really nice pets! There's only one problem with them — they don't live for very long. And when you find out that your pet goldfish has died, it can feel a little bit sad.

Say: In today's true Bible story, there's a man named Jairus' who feels sad because someone died, but it wasn't his goldfish, it was his daughter. And he wasn't just a little bit sad, he was a whole lot sad. He didn't stay sad for long, though. That's because Jesus did something amazing!

Say: If you're ready to hear that story, wiggle your fingers in the air. *(Children wiggle fingers in the air.)* Great! First, let's get our Bible out of the Super Duper Bible Box. *(Move to the Super Duper Bible Box.)* I need your help getting the Bible out, though. We need to say our special Bible words together. Repeat these special words after me: It's true, it's true, the Bible is true!

Slide: Show the "Jairus' Daughter is Alive" slide

7.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



BIG BIBLE STORY — JAIRUS' DAUGHTER IS ALIVE

(Ahead of time, place the story objects around the room. Make sure they are visible from the seating area. When it's time to spy an object, give clues such as color, shape, and what it's used for. Retrieve the object once it has been spied by the children.)

Say: Let's keep playing "I Spy." I spy with my little eye someone with... **(Choose a girl in the room and give clues as to who she is. Ex.: A girl with brown hair. A girl with green eyes. A girl with a red dress.)** In the Bible, in the Book of Luke, there was a man named Jairus who was very sad because his daughter was very sick. *(Ask girl to lay on floor and look sick.)* Jairus said to Jesus, "Please come to my house. My daughter is dying, and I want You to help her."

Say: Are you ready for another "I Spy?" *(Children respond.)* I spy with my little eye someone with... **(Choose a boy in the room and give clues as to who he is.)** Before Jesus got very far, someone came running from Jairus' house. *(Ask the boy to stand up and run in place, then stop.)* When he found Jairus, he said to him, "Your daughter is dead!" *(Prompt boy to repeat line.)* When Jesus heard this, He said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just believe." Then Jesus continued walking to Jairus' house.

Say: Let's do another "I Spy." I spy with my little eye something... **(Give clues about a box of Kleenex®.)** When Jesus got to Jairus' house, there were a lot of people crying loudly. *(Take a Kleenex®. Pretend to dab tears and blow nose.)* They were very sad that the girl had died. *(Direct girl on floor to play dead.)* Can you show me what you look like when you're very sad? *(Children look sad.)* It was a sad, sad day for Jairus. But it didn't stay sad!

Say: I spy with my little eye something... **(Give clues about a pillow.)** When Jesus saw that everyone was so sad, He said, "Why is everyone crying? The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping." *(Place the pillow under the girl's head.)* Then the people laughed at Jesus. They thought Jesus was silly for saying the girl was asleep when everyone could see she had died.

Say: I spy with my little eye something... **(Give clues about the girl's hand.)** Jesus took the dead girl by the hand. *(Hold the girl's hand in yours and look at her.)* Then He said to her, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" Right away, the little girl stood up and began to walk around. *(Direct girl to get up and walk around.)* The people were totally amazed by what they saw. On the count of three, let's all shout, "Hooray!" *(Count to three and shout.)* The girl had been dead, but Jesus made her alive again!

7.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



MUSIC AND CLOSING

(Encourage the children to stand up. Lead them in a worship song of your choice. Following the song, use the rhyme from earlier to help the children sit down again.)

Music: Play one worship song

Say: In our story for today, Jesus did a miracle. Can you say “miracle” with me? *(Repeat word with children.)* A miracle is something amazing that only Jesus can do. Jesus made a dead girl come back to life. But that’s not the only miracle Jesus can do.

Say: If you think Jesus could make a sick person get better, wiggle your fingers. *(Children wiggle fingers.)* If you think Jesus could stop a big, bad storm, wiggle your ears. *(Children wiggle ears.)* If you think Jesus could walk on water, wiggle your toes. *(Children wiggle toes.)* If you think Jesus could make a blind man see again, wiggle your nose. *(Children wiggle nose.)* It’s true, it’s true! Jesus did all of those things.

Say: With people, those things are impossible. But with Jesus, nothing is impossible. That’s because **Jesus can do anything.**

7.1 Large Group Lesson | Preschool



TOPHER'S BIG IDEA

Say: Hey — that's our Big Idea for today! I think we should tell it to our parents when we see them. Maybe we should practice first. (*Appear to be thinking.*) Hmm...who could we practice telling? I know! We could tell our friend, Topher the Gopher. Let's see if we can find him.

Video: Play "Topher's Big Idea Video 1"

(Whisper.) Uh-oh. It looks like Topher is asleep. I think we should wake him up. When he wakes up, we can all tell him that **Jesus can do anything**. On the count of three, let's all yell, "Topher the Gopher, wake up, wake up!" (*Count to three and yell with kids. Then play "Topher's Big Idea Video 2" or hold up card #2.*)

Topher: Hey, what's the Big Idea?

Children and Large Group Leader: **Jesus can do anything.** (*Repeat the Big Idea several times. When finished, play "Topher's Big Idea Video 3" or hold up card #3.*)

Topher: Wow! That is a Big Idea! Thanks for telling me! Goodbye, kids. (*Encourage kids to wave goodbye to Topher as he disappears back into his hole.*)

Large Group Leader: Let's say a prayer together and tell Jesus we believe He can do anything. (*Encourage kids to repeat the following prayer after you.*)

**Dear Jesus,
You are so, so powerful.
I believe that You can do anything.
I think You are amazing,
And I love You so much.
Amen.**