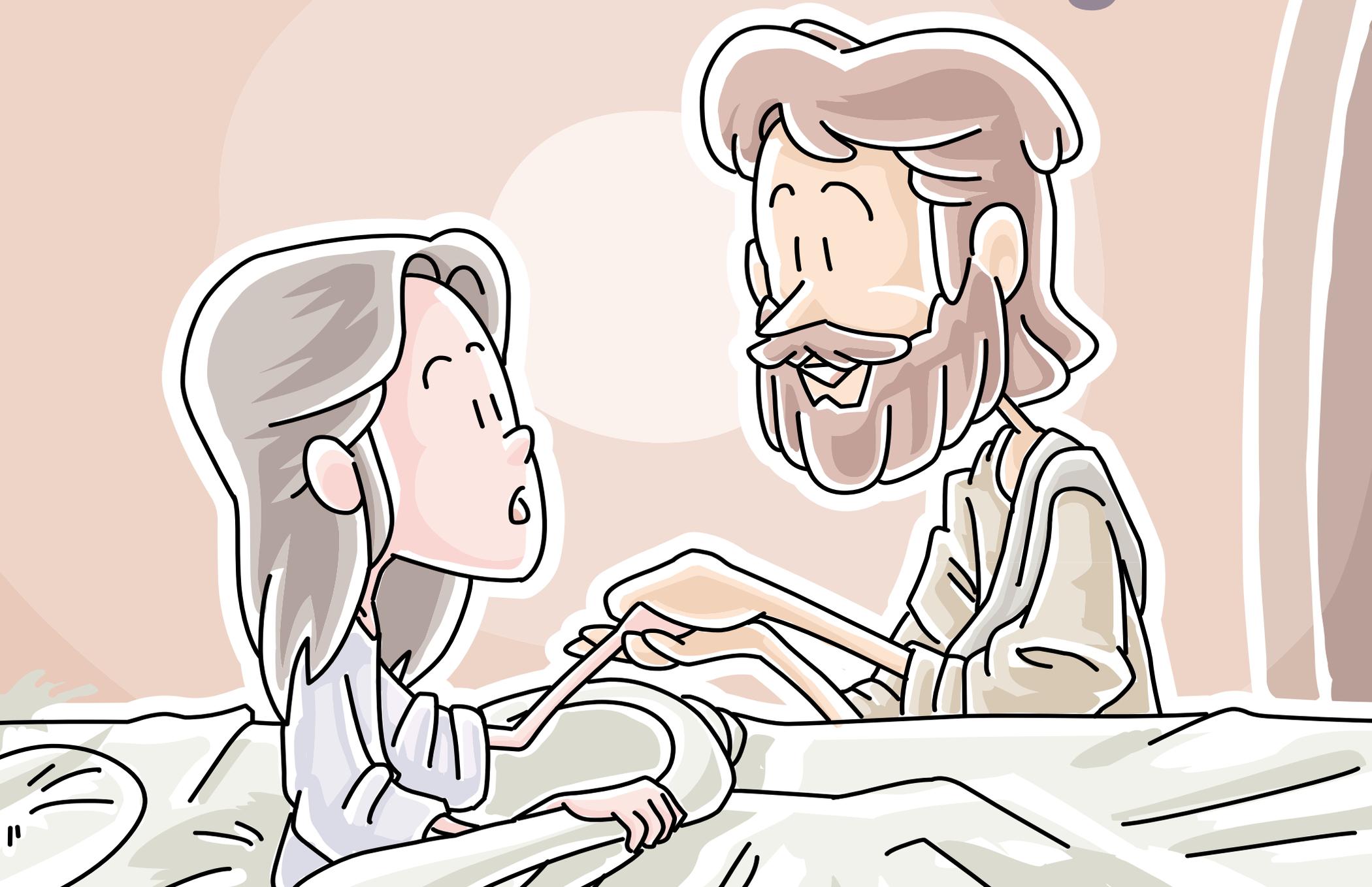


Jesus heals a little girl



Colour me!



Luke 8:41-56

Just then the man in charge of the Jewish meeting place came and knelt down in front of Jesus. His name was Jairus, and he begged Jesus to come to his home because his twelve-year-old child was dying. She was his only daughter.

While Jesus was on his way, people were crowding all around him. In the crowd was a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years. She had spent everything she had on doctors, but none of them could make her well.

As soon as she came up behind Jesus and barely touched his clothes, her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. While everyone was denying it, Peter said, "Master, people are crowding all around and pushing you from every side." But Jesus answered, "Someone touched me, because I felt power going out from me." The woman knew that she could not hide, so she came trembling and knelt down in front of Jesus. She told everyone why she had touched him and that she had been healed straight away.

Jesus said to the woman, "You are now well because of your faith. May God give you peace!" While Jesus was speaking, someone came from Jairus' home and said, "Your daughter has died! Why bother the teacher any more?" When Jesus heard this, he told Jairus, "Don't worry! Have faith, and your daughter will get well." Jesus went into the house, but he did not let anyone else go with him, except Peter, John, James, and the girl's father and mother. Everyone was crying and weeping for the girl. But Jesus said, "The child isn't dead. She is just asleep." The people laughed at him because they knew she was dead. Jesus took hold of the girl's hand and said, "Child, get up!" She came back to life and got straight up. Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were surprised, but Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Commentary

This is a snapshot of what seems to have been a normal, busy day for Jesus. There were crowds waiting for him when he returned from time away, with people pushing to be near him. This explains why Peter and the others thought Jesus must be joking when he said someone had just touched him. But the sick woman had touched him with faith. She believed he could help her even without a word being spoken, and Jesus knew that his power to heal had been released.

The woman had spent twelve years suffering from her illness, which, coincidentally, was the length of time Jairus' daughter had been alive. It must have taken a lot of courage for the girl's father, as a synagogue leader, to kneel before Jesus and ask for help, but, like the sick woman, he believed that Jesus could make a difference. He had to go on believing, along with his wife, when news came that his daughter had died. Once again, it was a single touch that transformed the situation as Jesus took the girl by the hand and brought her back to life.

It was a day of crowds everywhere, but Jesus never lost sight of the needs of individuals who came to him with faith.

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Questions

- ▶ Imagine what was going on in Jairus' mind as he made his way through the crowds. What might he have said as he knelt before Jesus?

- ▶ Why do you think the woman who was ill didn't speak directly to Jesus?

- ▶ Jesus felt power leaving him. But how did he fill up with power again?



Visual aid

Create a crowd scene with different figures from a toy box in your house. Bunch them all up close and try to move them together as a single unit. This is what it must have been like for Jesus, caught up with the crowds in the streets.



Activity idea

Play a game of 'Squeak, piggy, squeak'. Blindfold one member of the family and then sit in a circle or close together. After a moment, one person should come and sit close to the blindfolded one, touch them on the shoulders and squeak. Can the person guess who it was? Give everyone a go at being blindfolded.



Prayer idea

Touching Jesus and being touched by him is a simple description of what prayer is. For your prayers today, everyone should link hands in different ways to be in touch with each other and with God as you talk with him; for example, with palms upward on top of each other, asking for God's help; with hands placed against each other, upright, with fingers pointing up, praising God's name; with palms facing down on top of each other, saying 'sorry' to God.

Key verse

Jesus said to the woman, "You are now well because of your faith. May God give you peace!" (Luke 8:48)

Old Testament story link

2 Kings 4:8-37: Elisha prays to God and brings a boy back to life.



Colour me!

