

Bible background

Luke 8:40-42, 49-56.

Aim of lesson

To show that Jesus can raise the dead.

Preparation required

Make puppets from one activity book. You may find them more stable if you tape them to cardboard tubes, or upside-down yoghurt pots.

You will need colouring materials, scissors, sellotape.

Get to know the rhyme well so that you can say it with feeling.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Introduce the puppets. Holding the puppet for Jesus in your left hand and one of the other three as appropriate in your right, tell the story. Go over the story using the rhyme. Explain how Jairus was a very important man in the synagogue in Capernaum, and perhaps had been too busy to bother with Jesus until his 12-year old little girl became so ill. Explain the custom of weeping and wailing, and how the dreadful noise of the mourners turned to jeering when Jesus said he would wake up the little girl.
2. Give each puppet to one of the class and repeat the rhyme so that they can act it out. Change and repeat the rhyme. Ask the children to tell the story by asking about the characters of the puppets and what they did.
3. Let the children make puppets from their own activity sheets. Say the rhyme again while each of them acts it out with his puppets. By now, some of the children may be able to join in some parts, especially the last line.

Alternative activities

1. Make beds and figures out of modelling clay or help the children to glue scraps of paper or fabric on to a rectangle of card to make a bed. Make a little girl out of modelling clay or pipe-cleaners to lie on it.
2. Make a meal for the little girl - use dough or modelling clay or provide pages from magazines, supermarket flyers or old recipe cards for the children to cut up and glue on to paper plates. Make sad/happy faces on either side of a paper plate or circle of card. Attach a strip of thick card or a piece of dowel so that the children can hold the faces up and turn them round as you recap the story.

Relevance to the children's lives

Talk about the fact that everyone dies when they get very old, but that one day Jesus will come back and raise the dead. You may like then to include the lines 'When Jesus comes he'll raise you too, I wonder what he'll say to you'.

Prayer

Ask who would like to say 'Thank you' to Jesus for raising the little girl.

Verse

'Just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life.' John 5:21.

Rhyme

Jairus said, 'Please do come quickly,
My little girl is very sick.
If you don't come, I think she'll die.'
Jairus then began to cry.
As Jesus went with him that day,
A man came up to them to say:
'The little girl's already dead.'
Then Jairus' heart felt just like lead.
But Jesus said, 'Don't be afraid,
Come now, show me where she's laid.'
When Jesus saw the people weep
He said, 'She's only fast asleep.'
The people laughed at him and said
'What does he mean? We know she's dead.'

But Jesus took her by the hand
He said, 'Get up', and helped her stand.
And then she stood upon her feet
'Now, get her something to eat.'
'I think she's hungry', Jesus said.
And that is how he raised the dead!