**Live in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Expect the Unexpected**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. ([Proverbs 3:5–6](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr3.5-6))

*We all make plans—plans for where we’re going and what we want to do. But life is more often a story of unexpected interruptions. Our faith helps us to recognize God’s hand at work in unanticipated ways. By faith we learn to embrace life’s interruptions as the place God so often does miraculous things. We learn to respond with compassion and faith when things seem impossible.*

**Session Overview**

**Keep the Faith**

**Biblical Encounter:** A Religious Leader’s Daughter Is Raised from the Dead ([Mark 5:21–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.21-24), [35–43](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.35-43))

**Outcome:** Hold tightly to faith when confronted with the impossible.

*In this session, we’ll meet a religious leader who desperately wanted to talk with Jesus. This father’s daughter was dying and in need of healing. As he approached Jesus, he fell to his knees and pleaded with Him. Jesus responded by going to his home.*

*This encounter is one of desperation. Perhaps you’ve been in a situation where you needed Jesus to do a miracle. Perhaps you’ve questioned your own faith as you prayed and asked Jesus to intervene. If so, you can relate to the story. The challenge for each of us is to be able to hold tightly to our faith when we are surrounded by impossible circumstances.*

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Sheet of paper for each group of 3 or 4 students* *• Pen for each group of 3 or 4 student* *• 4 candy bars, all the same* *• Smartphone or timer****Getting Ready*** • ***First time leading* Live *for Youth? Look here for the*** [**Facilitator Guide**](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)**.** |

*To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [***BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads***](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads)

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming. Your friendliness here can create a comfort level that encourages student participation later.*

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Pray for your students and their families. Ask that as you discuss the Bible that everyone would be open to hear what the Holy Spirit is speaking to them. Pray that everyone would grow in their faith for healing and other impossible needs.*

**Introduction**

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| **QUESTION**What’s something you’ve done that you never thought you’d be able to do? |

Chances are, you’ve caught yourself saying, “I could never do that.” It could have been getting an A on a test in a tough class, making the school team for a sport, running a marathon, fixing something, or talking in front of a group of people. We’ve all been in situations like this. We’ve all probably had similar challenges in our walk with Jesus, too. We’ve faced something difficult, and it seemed like we didn’t have enough trust in Jesus to help us through it. As we’ll see in our story, there were people in the Bible just like you and me who also needed to trust Jesus when faced with something impossible.

**Group Activity**

**In Common**

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| ***You Will Need*** *• Sheet of paper for each group of 3 or 4 students* *• Pen for each group of 3 or 4 student* *• 4 candy bars, all the same* *• Smartphone or timer**No prep is needed for this activity* |

We’re going to do an activity called In Common. Each group will have three minutes to see how many things all the group members have in common. For example, you may go to the same school, be the same age, or have the same name. All your group members must have each item you list in common.

First, you’ll gather in groups of three or four people. Then when I say, “Go,” you’ll write down each thing your group has in common. You’ll have three minutes.

• *Break into groups of three or four students.*

• *Say, “Go,” and start a timer for three minutes.*

Well done! Now count the items on your list.

• *Invite the winning group to the front to read their list and get their candy bar prizes.*

You may have been surprised by how many things your group had in common. We can learn things about people and realize, “Hey, me too.” Today, we’ll look at a story about a young girl who desperately needed healing, and her father reached out to Jesus for help. What her father didn’t realize was that Jesus would be interrupted on the way by someone else who had a need.

Perhaps you have a desperate need in your life right now. If so, you have something in common with those we read about in the Bible. Let’s find out what we can learn from this story. Just before we do, let’s watch today’s video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Before the Bible story we’ll look at, Jesus and the disciples had encountered a man filled with many demons. He was a complete outcast; he was lonely and tried to kill himself several times. He needed healing. But his encounter with Jesus completely changed his life. After this man’s healing, Jesus and His disciples got in a boat and went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When they arrived, a large crowd of people gathered. One of these individuals was a dad with an impossible situation.

**A Father Pleads for His Daughter**

Read [Mark 5:21–24](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.21-24).

This day was turning into a busy one for Jesus. He had just arrived on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and a large crowd of people gathered. Somehow, in the midst of a large crowd, two people were able to grab Jesus’ attention above the rest. The first was Jairus, a leader of the local synagogue. This would be something like a church today. This religious leader had a very sick daughter. So he found Jesus, and filled with faith, asked Jesus to come and heal his daughter.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the Bible mentions the father being a local synagogue leader? |

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| **QUESTION**How did Jairus approach Jesus, and what does this say about the encounter? |

Even leaders of churches need to have faith in Jesus for impossible situations. This man didn’t appear embarrassed about approaching Jesus as a leader. He fell at Jesus’ feet in humility and expressed his needs to Jesus. He didn’t hide his faith in Jesus to resolve his situation.

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| **QUESTION**What does it mean to have faith? |

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| **QUESTION**What did Jairus ask Jesus to do? |

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| **QUESTION**What was Jesus’ immediate response? |

Jesus immediately started toward the dad’s home to pray for his daughter. A large crowd followed them. Perhaps it was to see what would happen or to be the next person to ask Him for something. We don’t know for sure. Either way, Jairus must have felt better now that Jesus had heard his request and responded.

**Jesus and Jairus Were Interrupted**

As Jesus, Jairus, and the crowd were heading to Jairus’s home, a woman reached out and touched Jesus. She had been sick for a long time and desperately needed healing. Surprisingly, Jesus stopped to see who had touched Him. Imagine being Jairus at that moment. His daughter was near death, and Jesus just let the woman interrupt their journey.

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| **QUESTION**What do you think Jairus was feeling at that moment? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like God was delayed in responding to your prayer? How did this make you feel? |

Jesus healed the woman of her illness. We don’t know how long their conversation lasted. The Bible makes it seem like only a few moments. But it was long enough for messengers to arrive with news about the daughter. Let’s find out what happened.

**Messengers Arrived with News**

Read [Mark 5:35–37](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.35-37).

The messengers had terrible news—Jairus’s daughter was dead. Those bringing the message said he no longer needed to bother Jesus. More than likely, you and I would have given up at that point. That may be what this dad was going to do. But Jesus had a different response.

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| **QUESTION**What did Jesus say when He heard the news? |

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| **QUESTION**Does it surprise you that Jesus needed to say that to a religious leader? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**What did Jesus tell the crowd to do? Why do you think He did that? |

Perhaps Jesus wanted to avoid any more interruptions. Or, He may have wanted to have only people who had faith with Him for what happened next.

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever felt like Jesus spoke to you to have more faith or trust like this? What was going on at the time? |

**Jesus Raised the Daughter to Life**

Read [Mark 5:38–43](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk5.38-43).

Jesus arrived at Jairus’s home. Again, we aren’t sure how long it took to travel there. But think about it for a moment. With each step, the dead girl’s dad was probably thinking about what could have happened if Jesus had only arrived sooner. Or perhaps he was thinking, *What did Jesus mean when He said to have faith?*

Upon their arrival, Jesus was once again met by a crowd of people. They were mourning the girl’s death. Once again, Jesus told the crowd to go away. He allowed only the girl’s father, mother, and three of His disciples to be in the girl’s room with Him. They got to see Jesus bring the girl back to life!

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| **QUESTION**Do you think the parents’ faith in Jesus changed because of seeing this happen? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**Why is it important to cling to our faith and trust in Jesus even during what seems impossible? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever seen or heard something happen that seemed impossible? What was it? |

Jesus raised the girl to life and immediately told them to give her something to eat. This may seem a bit odd, but it suggests a few things about Jesus and His concern for us. He may have realized that she had been sick and needed nourishment. Jesus understands us, cares about our needs, and loves us deeply. Notice, He didn’t demand worship or thanks. His first thought was to give food to a twelve-year-old girl. This is a great picture of a kind Savior.

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| **QUESTION**Do you believe Jesus still does miracles today? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever had someone pray and lay hands on you? What happened? |

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| **QUESTION**Would you say you’ve grown in your faith and trust in Jesus through an impossible situation? How so? |

**Did You Know?**

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| The rapidly developing medical field during the New Testament period was a defining mark of the Greco-Roman world. Real strides were being made in the development of true medicine, but the Roman medical world was still very much wrapped in the pagan world. They intertwined the worship of the pagan god of healing, Asclepius, with their medical practices. However, in the Jewish world both before and after Jesus, people relied less on natural remedies. Instead they focused on righteous people of God, asking them to intercede for the miraculous. The fact that people brought others to Jesus, Paul, and Peter with the same hope of healing reflects what history shows us about this time in Jewish life. |

**Reflect**

**Hold tightly to faith when confronted with the impossible.**

That was an amazing story! There was so much going on that gives us a glimpse into what Jesus’ life must have been like. Crowds of people were everywhere He went, a desperate synagogue leader approached Him about a dying daughter, and a woman interrupted His journey for her own healing. Things may have seemed impossible, but not for Jesus!

Then we learned that the girl was raised back to life. Imagine the conversations she would have had with her friends in the years to come! Imagine how incredibly happy her mom and dad must have been!

We don’t often get a chance to see a miracle. If they happened all the time, perhaps they would no longer be called miracles. The focus of the story isn’t just on Jesus bringing the girl back to life. Rather, the point is that her father didn’t give up. He held on to his faith even when hearing his daughter was dead. Perhaps there is something for us to learn here. Never give up. Regardless of the circumstances or what the crowd says, we should hold tight to faith in God.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how our life demonstrates a real trust in the Bible. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your responses with the group is completely voluntary.

• *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection after reading the questions. Then ask students if they want to share. Sharing your personal response may also be helpful to the students.*

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| **QUESTION**Does your trust in Jesus increase after reading Bible stories like this? Why or why not? |

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| **QUESTION**Is there an impossible situation you’re facing that the group can pray with you about? |

**Activate**

Let’s be people who trust Jesus even during the impossibilities of life. Determine to talk to a family member or friend who is facing an impossible situation. Read or tell them the story we’ve just discussed. Pray with them. Let them know you are holding tight to your trust in Jesus for their impossible situation.

**Conclusion**

Jesus spent His life traveling to meet people. He healed many, brought freedom to others, and showed kindness and encouragement. Maybe you never thought of Jesus in this way. Sometimes reading about His miracles causes us to overlook how much He cares for us. He wants to have a relationship with us. Today, we read a story about having faith for the impossible. Jesus understands we will face these types of moments in our life. Be encouraged. Jesus is with you, challenging you not to give up.

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*Perhaps you heard this story today and thought it was amazing. The issue for you, however, may be that you don’t really know Jesus as your Savior and miracle worker. Although we just talked about what He did, you haven’t had a relationship encounter with Him. Before you can trust Him with the impossible, you need to trust Him with your future.**Is anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You for performing the impossible. Help us to have faith and determination to trust You in all situations. Help us to bring this same faith to others. We commit to encourage others in their circumstances, regardless of what they are facing. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**Dismissal**

Hey! Did you check out the devotions from last time? I told you I would ask! Don’t forget about the devotions in the Bible Engagement Project app this week. See each of you next time.