**1. Motivate**

What was a time when something exceeded your expectations?

* a restaurant

A video introduction is available for this Bible study. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_shagq569> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <http://tinyurl.com/4hs5jf9t>

* an academic class
* the quality of a car
* a sports team event
* the performance of a politician
* the weather
* a party you attended
* a speaker, preacher, teacher

**2. Transition**

God’s response to our faith will always ultimately exceed our expectations.

* Faith maintains trust in God to do what no one else can do.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Trust Jesus with Your Needs

Listen for desperation.

Luke 8:41-42 (NIV) Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house 42 because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.

Jarius was a ruler of a local synagogue. What mixed feelings might he have had as he approached Jesus for help regarding his daughter’s illness?

* most of the religious leaders opposed Jesus
* many thought Jesus was NOT someone who fit their idea of righteous and holy

But …

* Jesus was becoming known as a healer, someone who could do miracles
* Jarius needed a miracle, his daughter was dying

How did Jesus respond to his appeal?

* Jesus came with him
* as they were on the way they had to force their way through crowds

Jairus was an important person. He was probably quite religious. But he had a tragic situation. What does that tell us about how life happens?

* problems that come our way are no respecter of persons
* good things happen to bad people and …
* bad things happen to good people
* tragedy can strike any one at any time
* we can make every effort to be careful and maintain our health, but ultimately, our days are numbered

When problems do come along, what might keep us from bringing our needs to Jesus?

* we think we can fix it
* we think it is too small to bother God
* we might think it’s such a BIG problem that even God couldn’t fix the mess
* we don’t think to do it … we’re not convinced of God’s interest, love, compassion, power, authority

Why do delays like the pressing crowd put our faith to the test?

* I need help NOW
* there’s lots of other needs and problems in the world, can God even realize my need
* why doesn’t God fix this sooner
* this is so discouraging
* having to wait causes doubts to fill our thoughts … did God even hear me?

3.2 Trust Jesus when Things Go Awry

Listen for increasing tragedy.

Luke 8:49-53 (NIV) While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more." 50 Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." 51 When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. 52 Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." 53 They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead.

What dire message came to Jairus concerning his daughter? What emotions do you think Jarius probably had?

* your daughter has, indeed, died
* no reason for Jesus to come
* it’s too late
* emotions: despair, sorrow, grief, hopelessness

What in the passage indicates that people with Jairus were limited in what they believed about Jesus?

* if someone is sick, Jesus can heal them, if they’re dead, it’s too late
* no one has the power to bring her back to life, despite what we’ve heard about Jesus
* even today, that’s the way we would think

Upon hearing the message, what encouragement did Jesus give to him?

* don’t be afraid
* just believe
* she will be healed

This could have seemed like a trite response but actually Jesus gave him sound advice. How are fear and faith opposites, in a way?

* if you are afraid, that is all you think of … you cannot focus on God
* fear can paralyze your thinking, your will
* fear is focusing on the problem
* faith is focusing on Jesus – His power, His authority, His love, His faithfulness

How did Jesus’ manner and words stand in sharp contrast to the mood outside and inside Jairus’s house?

* Jesus rejected the idea that it was too late
* He knew her condition was temporary
* He knew He could and would restore life and health
* He was/is sovereign
* God does as God pleases to do, when and how He chooses

Why did Jesus separate the mourners from where the little girl lay dead?

* their lack of faith, they hindered the faith of the family
* people who do not believe in Jesus’ power, authority, and love are actually believing in Jesus *inability*
* God chooses not to work when we fail to place our trust in Him

What opposition do believers sometimes face when they *express* an expectant faith?

* like Jarius’ friends and mourners – “we’re here to mourn and wail”
* unbelievers chide us for our faith in God – “even God can’t fix this”
* “it’s too late now”
* “you’re foolish expecting God to fix this”
* “even the doctors have given up”
* “get on with life, this situation is over”

At the same time … when God takes a believer home …

* Death is the ultimate healer – no more suffering.
* For a believer, Heaven is a good place to be.

3.3 Trust Jesus to Provide

Listen for Jesus’ power and love.

Luke 8:54-56 (NIV) But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" 55 Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. 56 Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

Rather than respond to scoffers, what did Jesus proceed to do? What method did He use in this case to work a miracle?

* brought the parents and Peter, James, and John into the room where she was
* took her by the hand
* ordered, “Little girl, get up!”

What was the result for the girl? How did her parents respond?

* her spirit returned
* at once she stood up
* they were astonished

What two commands did Jesus give to her parents?

* give her something to eat
* she’d been sick, needed nourishment
* this will make it obvious that she is well
* don’t tell anyone what had happened

Consider why He told them not to tell what had happened. Weren’t all those people going to know it anyway?

* Maybe didn’t want her to be the center of unneeded attention
* She was just a little girl wanting to get on with life
* Jesus’ goal was not to be a traveling miracle show
* His ministry was not about displays or power
* The main lesson was one of faith
* Understand He has power to deliver life, His timing and sovereignty are to be respected

How does Jesus' healing power extend beyond physical ailments to address deeper spiritual and emotional needs?

* deliverance from addictions
* restoring relationships
* bringing revival
* moving in hearts and lives to bring people to faith in Christ
* enabling believers to be active in ministry to others
* empowering the Body of Christ

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Pray.

* Ask God to reveal the people in your life who need a spiritual resurrection.
* Pray for spiritual awakening and the courage to speak into their lives.

Memorize.

* As you reflect on this amazing story, let its meaning sink in by memorizing this promise from Jesus:
* “A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it in abundance” (John 10:10).

Go.

* Sometime in the next week or so, get out of the safety zone of your ordinary life and visit a jail, homeless shelter, or compassion ministry site.
* Volunteer to help and, as you do, pray that God will once again show off His power in the lives of the people you encounter.

Crossword Puzzle



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