



Let's Act Bible Stories No.2

When Jesus Came to my House

Matthew 9:18-26

Mark 5:21-43

Luke 8:40-56

Characters

Jairus – an official of the synagogue in Capernaum

Sarah – Jairus' daughter

Jairus' Wife

Ben – a servant

Doctor

Jesus

Woman

Peter

Mourner

Crowd

recorder players, if available



When Jesus Came to my House

Jairus My name is Jairus. I am in charge of an important synagogue in Capernaum. Capernaum is a busy town by Lake Galilee. A synagogue is a place of worship and there are lots of them in Israel. I run the services in the synagogue, and live in a fine house with servants. I have a wife and a daughter we love dearly. Let me tell you something about a synagogue. If you go to a synagogue you will see men praying and listening to God's laws being read. Opposite the entrance to the synagogue is a special box called an Ark. This is where we keep the scrolls of God's laws. I and other synagogue leaders sit in special seats in front of the Ark. The men sit on wooden benches. We need at least ten men to have a synagogue. My wife, daughter and all the women and girls sit in a special gallery. The synagogue also has a school, just for boys. They learn God's laws by heart. I love my work in the synagogue and have a very happy family, but one day something terrible happened to our lovely daughter, Sarah. She was just twelve years old.

Scene 1 – Jairus' House

Sarah Oh, my head! I feel dizzy! I can't stand up!

Mother Whatever is the matter my dear? Lie down here and I'll get your father to come. Jairus! Come at once, please.

(enter Jairus with Ben, a servant)

Jairus Whatever is the matter? I was just sorting out the services for the next Sabbath in the synagogue.

Sarah Oh, my head! I feel awful, father, please help me!

Jairus Yes of course, there's not a moment to lose. *(to servant)* Quick, Ben, get the doctor. Straightaway. Tell him it's very urgent. Our daughter is very ill. Plead with him to come at once. *(exit servant)* Don't worry, my dear child, the doctor will be here very soon.

Mother Oh, I do hope so. She doesn't look at all well. I have never seen her looking like this. Whatever can be the matter with her?

Jairus Don't worry, my dear, the doctor will be here soon. He will know what to do. But for now we must trust God to make Sarah well again.

(enter Doctor)



- Doctor** I came as soon as I got your message. I will examine her at once.
- Mother** Oh yes, please. We do hope you can help her. Sarah is our only daughter.
- Doctor** *(looking grave after examining patient, turns away from Sarah, beckons her parents)* I'm afraid there is nothing I can do for her.
- Jairus** You mean . . . she is dying?
- Doctor** I'm afraid so . . . yes.
- Mother** How long has she got to live, Doctor?
- Doctor** Not very long . . . she could go at any moment.
- (enter Ben)*
- Ben** Master, news, important news. I must tell you.
- Jairus** What news, Ben?
- Ben** Jesus of Nazareth has just arrived here in Capernaum. He is on the shore of Lake Galilee now. You know that he has healed many sick people of their diseases. I thought . . .
- Jairus** Thank you, Ben. There is not a moment to lose. I must go and see Jesus at once and ask him to come here.

Scene 2 – On the shore of Lake Galilee

(Jesus is surrounded by a crowd. Jairus arrives, flings himself at Jesus' feet)

- Jairus** My daughter is dying. Please, I beg you, please come at once. Place your hands on her so that she will get well and live.

(Jairus, Jesus and the crowd move off)

- Woman** If I only touched the edge of Jesus' cloak I will be well again.

(She comes behind Jesus, bends and touches the edge of his cloak)



Jesus Who touched me?

Peter The crowd are nearly choking you and you ask, "Who touched me?"

Jesus Someone touched me, for I knew it when the power went out of me.

Woman *(trembling and kneeling at Jesus' feet)* Master, I touched you. I have had severe bleeding for twelve years. I have spent all my money on doctors, but no one has been able to cure me.

Jesus My daughter, your faith has made you well, go in peace.

(enter Ben the servant, speaks to Jairus)

Ben Your daughter has died, Master, don't bother the Teacher any longer.

Jesus *(to Jairus)* Don't be afraid; only believe and she will be well.

(everyone moves on to Jairus' house)

Scene 3 – Jairus' House

Jesus Peter, James and John come with me into the house. *(inside)* Why all the confusion? She is not dead, only sleeping.

Mourner Sleeping! Are you mad? She's dead! We've been paid to weep, wail and play sad sounding music.

(recorder players play some sad sounding music)

Jesus Get out! Leave us alone with her parents. *(gently takes the girl's hand)* Little girl, I tell you to get up.

(girl opens eyes, gets up and walks around)

Girl Mum, Dad, what's happening? The last thing I remember is feeling dizzy – now I feel like a spring lamb!

Jairus This is amazing!

Mother Our lovely daughter has come back to life! How can we thank you enough, Teacher?



Jesus Tell no-one what has happened . . . and give your daughter something to eat.

(exit all)

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