

“A Risk of Faith” - based on Mark 5:21-43 from the Message and Luke 8 from The Jesus Storybook Bible.

Players:

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Jairus
- Sick Woman - “Miriam”
- Disciples
- Servant
- Little girl

Narrator:

There once was a little girl who didn't get out of bed once morning, or the next, or the next. In fact, she didn't get out of bed for a whole month. She was very sick and no one knew how to make her better.

Jairus was her daddy and he loved her. One day, he was sitting by her bed, holding her hand, wishing there was something he could -

Jairus:

I know! The Teacher! He could heal her!

Narrator:

He jumped to his feet, put on his coat, kissed his daughter, ran down the stairs, past the servants, out of the house... through the gates, along the road, into the town, up the steps and into the temple.

He fought his way through all the people until, at last, he found who he was looking for.

Jairus:

Jesus! My daughter! Please... she is very ill - I think she is dying! Come and lay hands on her that she may be healed.

Narrator:

Before he'd even finished speaking, Jesus reached out his hand and said:

Jesus:

I'll come at once.

Jairus:

Oh thankyou, Jesus, thankyou!

Narrator:

In those days, of course, they didn't have ambulances so they had to go by foot. Jesus' helpers knew that he would heal the sick girl - but they must hurry. If Jesus didn't get there soon, it would be too late.

But everyone was in the way! Hustling and bustling. Jostling and pressing. Pushing and shoving. Squishing and squashing. The disciples ran ahead, forcing back the crowd.

A woman who had been sick for 12 years was in the crowd. Many doctors had treated her and she had paid them all of her money but she did not get better. Her sickness was ruining her life and she was losing hope. She saw Jesus and thought:

Miriam:

If I can put a finger on Jesus' robe, I can get well.

Narrator:

The moment she did it, she was healed - she felt it in her body.

Jesus:

"Who touched me?"

Narrator:

Jesus asked this because he felt power go out of him. His disciples said:

Disciples:

What are you talking about? With this crowd pushing and jostling you, you're asking "who touched me?" Dozens have touched you!!

Narrator:

But he went on asking, looking around to see who had done it. The woman, knowing what had happened, knowing that she was the one, stepped up in fear and trembling, knelt before Jesus.

Miriam:

It was me - I'm sorry Jesus!

Narrator:

Jesus looked into her eyes and smiled.

Jesus:

You believed, and now your faith has made you well. Go in Peace.

Narrator:

Just then, Jairus's servant came running up to him.

Servant:

It's too late! Your daughter is dead!

Narrator:

Jesus turned to Jairus.

Jesus:

It's not too late - trust me.

Narrator:

At Jairus's house, everyone was crying. But Jesus said

Jesus:

I'm going to wake her up.

Narrator:

Everybody laughed at him because they knew she was dead. Jesus walked into the little girl's bedroom. And there, lying in the corner, in the shadows, was the still little figure. Jesus sat on the bed and took her pale hand.

Jesus:

Hey little one. It's time to wake up!

Narrator:

And he reached down into death and gently brought the little girl back to life.

The little girl woke up, rubbed her eyes as if she'd just had a good night's sleep, and leapt out of bed. Jesus threw open the shutters and sunlight flooded the dark room.

Jesus:

Hungry?

Little girl:

Yes!

Jesus:

Bring this little girl some breakfast!

Narrator:

Jesus helped and healed many people like this. He made blind people see. He made deaf people hear. He made lame people walk. Jesus was making the sad things come untrue. He was mending God's broken world.