One day a man named Jairus came to see Jesus. Jairus was sad and worried. His only daughter was so sick that she was about to die. And she was only 12 years old.

Jairus knelt at Jesus’ feet and begged, “Lord, my daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will get well and live!”

Right away Jesus went with Jairus to his house. But while they were still on the way, some men came from Jairus’ house with bad news. “It’s too late,” they told Jairus. “Your daughter is dead. Don’t bother Jesus anymore. He can’t help her now.”

Paying no attention to what the men had said, Jesus told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just believe, and your daughter will get well.”

The news that Jairus’ daughter had died spread quickly. So by the time Jesus and Jairus got to Jairus’ house, many friends and neighbors were already there. They were crying loudly because the little girl had died. Jesus said to them, “Why are all of you crying? The girl is not dead. She’s only sleeping.”

The people laughed at Jesus because they knew the girl was dead. They didn’t understand what Jesus meant.

Jesus told the people to leave the house. Then he took only the girl’s parents and Peter, James, and John with him into the room where the dead girl was lying.

Jesus held the dead girl’s hand and said to her, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!” As soon as Jesus said this, the girl stood up and began to walk around. She was alive and well! Her parents were amazed at the miracle Jesus had done.

“Don’t tell anyone what I did here,” Jesus told them. But the news of how Jesus had brought Jairus’ daughter back to life was soon known everywhere in the land.
Jesus showed his power over death by bringing a 12-year-old girl back to life. What a comfort it is to know that Jesus has the power to raise us to eternal life in heaven!

1. With today's media coverage of crime and catastrophe, death is vividly played out before one's eyes. This can frighten a child. Discuss the following commonly asked questions concerning death and the Christian answers to them. Help your child unscramble the letters to provide the missing words.

- What happens when someone dies? A person's heart stops beating, his lungs stop breathing, and his brain stops thinking. But there is one part of a person that never dies—his __ __ __ __ . (uols)
- What happens to the soul of a person who dies? If the person believed in Jesus as his Savior, Jesus takes the soul to __ __ __ __ __ __ . (nveeha) If the person did not, Jesus sends that soul to hell.
- What happens to a person's body after he dies? A dead body is like an empty shell in which a soul once lived. Many dead bodies are buried. But these bodies will not stay in the ground forever. Jesus knows where all dead bodies are, and he will __ __ __ __ __ __ (aesir) them from the dead on judgment day. He promises that he will make the bodies of all believers perfect and will join them with their souls in heaven.

2. As a family, make a list of things you can look forward to in heaven. Post this list where you can all see it and be reminded that Jesus has power over death. When the time is right, he will take you to the wonderful home in heaven he has prepared for you.

Pray Together

Lord, you know when the time is right
To bring us happiness and delight!
So give us joy the day we die,
By taking us to heav’n on high. Amen.

* John 14:19b

* The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Hymn 152:1

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head!