A very unusual and wonderful thing happened one day when a man named Jairus came to Jesus. Jairus was the leader of the synagogue (Jewish church) in his town. He had hurried to find Jesus because his only daughter, who was 12 years old, was sick—so sick that Jairus was afraid she would die! Jairus fell down at Jesus’ feet and begged him for help. “My daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live!”

As Jairus started for home, Jesus and his disciples went with him. But while they were on their way, some men came from Jairus’ house with bad news. One of the men said, “It’s too late. Your daughter is dead. Don’t bother the teacher anymore.”

When Jesus heard what the man said, he told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just believe, and she will be healed.”

When Jesus arrived at Jairus’ house, it was already filled with people who were crying over the girl’s death. Jesus told them, “Stop crying and making so much noise! She isn’t dead. She is asleep.” Everyone laughed at Jesus when he said this. They knew that the girl was dead, and they did not understand what Jesus meant.

Jesus told all the people to leave the house. Then he took the father and mother of the little girl and three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—into the room where the young girl lay.

Jesus took the girl by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” As soon as Jesus spoke these words, she came back to life and began to breathe again. The girl stood up and began to walk around! Her parents were amazed. Then Jesus calmly told them to give her something to eat.

Jesus ordered the girl’s parents not to tell anyone what had happened. Yet the news about this miracle soon spread throughout that whole region.
By raising Jairus’ daughter, Jesus showed his power over death. This lesson reminds us that Jesus will raise us from the dead to live eternally in heaven.

1. Christian children need to learn and talk about death—it’s something that all of us face, living as we do in a world ruined by sin. Ask your child what questions he or she has about death. Even if there are none, check for understanding by asking questions such as these: What happens to our bodies when we die? What happens to our souls? Will our bodies stay buried in the ground forever? As you answer your child’s questions, emphasize what a blessing it is to know that death is not the end for a Christian—it is simply the gate through which we enter heaven!

2. Has your family ever talked about what each of you is most looking forward to in heaven? If not, this would be an excellent time to do so. Remember to mention such things as health problems or other struggles certain family members face here on earth, which will be gone in heaven. Then together thank Jesus for his saving work, which earned such a wonderful future for us.

Pray Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for taking away our sins on the cross so that we can look forward to heaven. We can hardly imagine how wonderful it will be to live there forever! Throughout our lives here on earth, keep us focused on you and on where our true home is. Amen.

* John 14:19b

* The Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?
I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn 152:1,2

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!

2 He lives triumphant from the grave; He lives eternally to save. He lives, all-glorious in the sky; He lives exalted there on high.