I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.

John 8:12
(NIV 1984)
How did Jesus use his almighty power to help Jairus?

Jesus used his almighty power to make Jairus’ daughter alive again.

Application: Jesus has power over death.
Response: We do not fear what will happen when we die, because we know that Jesus will give us life in heaven.

Lesson Summary: Jairus came and asked Jesus to heal his dying daughter. When some men brought the message that the girl had died, Jesus told Jairus to believe and his daughter would be healed. At Jairus’ house Jesus said that the girl was “sleeping.” Taking three disciples and the girl’s parents with him, Jesus went into the girl’s room and raised her from the dead. Her parents were amazed at this miracle that showed Jesus’ power over death.

John 14:19

soul—the part of a person that believes or does not believe in Jesus as the Savior


Dear Jesus, thank you for saving me from my sins. Help me teach my students that you have power over death and will one day raise us from the dead. Help us not to fear what will happen when we die but to trust that you will give us life in heaven. In your dear name I pray. Amen.
WORSHIP Have the children practice saying or singing their response (Gospel response, hymnal, page 18) before you begin with the following litany.

Teacher: Thank you, Jesus, for taking care of our bodies.
Children: Praise be to you, O Christ!
T: Thank you, Jesus, for taking care of our souls.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!
T: Thank you, Jesus, for taking away our sins.
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Lead the children in doing the suggested actions as you sing the following words to the tune of “Glory Be to Jesus” (hymn 103).

Jesus is God’s Son; he (make cross with index fingers)
Has almighty power. (flex arm muscles)
He can guard and help us (point to self)
Every single hour. (point to watch or clock)

Ask a volunteer to tell what Jesus, God’s Son, uses to take care of us.
[He uses his almighty power.]

Today we will hear about a man named Jairus who came to Jesus for help. We will learn how Jesus used his almighty power to help Jairus.
At appropriate times as you tell the story, have the children do the following:

- Boys: Walk in place like Jairus going to Jesus.
- All: Make loud wailing (crying) noises.
- Girls: Lie down with eyes closed.
- Boys: Take a girl’s hand and say, “Get up.”
- Girls: Open eyes and sit up.

One day a man named Jairus came and knelt before Jesus. Jairus was sad and worried. “My young girl is sick—so sick that she is dying. Please, Jesus,” he prayed, “come to my house and put your hands on her so that she will get well. Then she will not die.”

So Jesus went with Jairus. While they were on their way, some men came from Jairus’ house. They said, “Your daughter has died. Do not bother Jesus anymore.”

When Jesus heard what they said, he told Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Only believe, and your daughter will be healed.”

When they came to Jairus’ house, they found many people crying loudly because the girl had died. Jesus said to them, “Why are you crying and making so much noise? The girl is not dead. She is sleeping.” Jesus was talking about death in a special way.

But some people laughed at Jesus. “How can he say she is sleeping?” they thought. “We know she is dead.” They did not understand what Jesus meant.

After Jesus sent those people outside, he went into the room where the dead girl was lying. He also took along Jairus, the girl’s mother, and three disciples: Peter, James, and John. Jesus took the girl’s hand and said, “Little girl, I tell you, get up!”

Right away the girl stood up and walked around. Her parents were surprised and happy to see her alive again.

“Give your daughter something to eat,” Jesus told Jairus and his wife. Jesus had used his almighty power to make the girl alive again. What a wonderful miracle Jesus had done!

Note: You’ll need to use the story in the adjacent column.

Color and cut out figures made from Copy Master 1. Attach a craft stick to each one to make a set of puppets. When making the little girl puppet, fasten the “dead” girl and the “alive” girl back-to-back to the same stick. As you tell the story, have volunteers help you use the puppets to act it out.

At appropriate times as you tell the story, draw simple pictures of the following on the board or on paper.

- a sad face (Jairus) and a happy face (Jesus)
- sad faces (men with message about girl’s death) with an arrow pointing toward Jesus and Jairus
- faces with open mouths (wailing) and tears
- girl’s face with closed eyes
- girl’s face with open eyes
- happy faces of Jairus, his wife, three disciples, and Jesus
Cut out figures of Jairus, Jesus, and the sick girl made from Copy Master 1 and attach them to the board. You need a duplicate of Copy Master 2.

Do Read each of the following questions and have children take turns pointing to the figure that represents the answer.

- Who was very sick? [The girl.]
- Who went to get help for his sick daughter? [Jairus.]
- Whom did Jairus ask for help? [Jesus.]
- Who died? [The girl.]
- Who told Jairus to believe and not be afraid? [Jesus.]

Say Jesus took the girl’s parents and three of his disciples into the girl’s room.

Ask Then what did Jesus do to help Jairus? [Made Jairus’ daughter come back to life.]

Say Jesus used his almighty power (flex arm muscles) to make Jairus’ daughter come alive from the dead.

Do Draw a cross and point to it.

Ask What did Jesus do as part of his work to save us from our sins? [Died on a cross.]

Say But Jesus did not stay dead.

Do Draw a sun and a tomb with the stone rolled away.

Ask What happened early Easter morning? [Jesus rose from the dead.]

Say Jesus has power over death. He raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead, and he raised himself from the dead.

Do Say the memory treasure to the children.

Say When Jesus said these words, he was promising to give us life after we die.

Do Draw a simple outline of a person.

Say All of us have bodies.

Do Inside the person, draw a heart with a cross inside of it.

Say All of us have souls. Our soul is a part inside of us that cannot be seen. Our souls believe in Jesus (point to cross) and love him. (Point to or trace heart.)

Do Draw a line to represent the ground. Under the ground draw a simple outline of a body lying down.

Say When we die, our bodies stop breathing and moving. Our dead bodies will be put into the ground, but not our souls. Souls do not die.
Do Draw a big cloud with rays coming from it. Inside the cloud draw a heart with a cross inside of it. Note: Keep the heart small enough so that the outline of a body can later be drawn around it.

Say Our souls will go to heaven as soon as we die. They live in heaven until the end of the world.

Do As you say the following, erase the body under the ground and draw a simple body outline around the heart with the cross. Add a happy face to that body.

Say On the Last Day, Jesus will make our dead bodies come alive so that our bodies and souls will live in heaven forever.

Do Read and discuss the following pretend story:

Gene was still awake when Dad went in to check on him. When Dad asked what was wrong, Gene answered, “I saw a television show today where one of the people died. Now I keep thinking about dying, and that bothers me.”

“Gene, I understand,” Dad answered. “So here’s an idea that might help. Instead of thinking about dying, think about what comes next—life in heaven with Jesus. Knowing that Jesus will give us life in heaven helps us not be afraid of what will happen when we die.”

• What was bothering Gene? [He kept thinking about dying.]

• What idea did Dad give to Gene? [Think about the life in heaven that comes after we die.]

• We do not fear what will happen when we die, because we know that Jesus will give us [life in heaven].

As Pedro snuggled with his teddy bear, Dad said, “Now close your eyes and think about all the fun things you will do tomorrow.” Then Dad left the room and Pedro went to sleep.

Say Dad helped Pedro so he was not afraid to go to sleep. Jesus helps us so we are not afraid of what will happen when we die. He promises that because he lives, we also will live.

Ask What happened after Jesus died on a cross? [He came back to life on Easter morning.]

Say Jesus has power over death. He rose from the dead as part of his work to take away our sins. And one day he will raise us from the dead.

Do Briefly discuss what happens when we die. Our dead bodies stay on earth, but our souls (the invisible part inside us that believes in Jesus as the Savior) go right to heaven and live there. On the Last Day, Jesus will make our dead bodies come alive and join our souls to live in heaven forever.

Then read the memory treasure.

Say Jesus has promised to raise us from the dead. So we do not fear what will happen when we die, because we know that Jesus will give us life in [heaven].
CLOSE

Show a student lesson picture.

Ask What wonderful thing did Jesus do for Jairus? [Made his dead daughter come back to life.]

Say Jesus has power over death. He used his almighty power (flex arm muscle) to give new life to a girl’s dead body.

Do Have the children join you in saying the memory treasure.

Ask Who will give us life in heaven? [Jesus.]

Say We do not fear what will happen when we die, because we know that Jesus will give us life in heaven.

Do Close by singing the following words to the tune of “Glory Be to Jesus” (hymn 103). Repeat the song so the children can hum or sing along.

We believe in Jesus; (make a cross with index fingers)
He saved you and me. (point to others, then self)
He will give us heaven; (point up)
Happy we will be! (smile)

Parent Idea: Doing the first activity on the student lesson will help your child learn two things: a song based on the memory treasure and how to write Jesus’ name. During our next class, we will sing the song as a reminder of Jesus’ wonderful promise of life in heaven.

Parent Idea: Use the second activity on the student lesson as a fun way to practice telling God’s Word to others. We’re curious to see which Bible characters your family members chose to be!
• Use the following action rhyme to begin.

Someday I will die,  
(close eyes; fold hands)
But I will live on high  
(point up)
Forever (spread arms out wide)  
With Jesus.  
(make cross with index fingers)

• Use one of the suggestions from Activity 1 under Lesson Activities to review the Bible story.

• Bring out Chatter and Melody and have them greet the class. Then use the skit from Copy Master 3 to interact with them.

After finishing the skit, set the puppets aside. Then review what Melody does when she gets scared about what will happen when she dies. Ask what the children could do if they felt the same way. (Optional: Reassure the children that most, if not all, people have times when they feel scared about death itself but that Christians know that Jesus will take them to heaven as soon as they die. Explain that Jesus is with us at all times, in life and death, and wants us to trust that he knows what is best.) Remind the children that Jesus did everything to take away their sins and give them life in heaven. Then either review the memory treasure or use the song suggestion from Activity 3 (Memory Treasure Song) under Lesson Activities.

• Close by repeating the action rhyme from the opening activity.

• Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.

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**Lesson Activities**

**1. Review**

**Puppets**

*Purpose:* To review the Bible story using puppets.

*Procedure:* Have each child color and cut out a set of figures made from Copy Master 1 and glue a craft stick to the back of each figure. The living and dead girl figures could be glued back-to-back to one craft stick. Partner the children and have the partners take turns using their puppets while telling each other the story.

*Variations:* (1) Have adult volunteers or older students from another classroom serve as the partners. (2) Partner a boy with a girl. As the partners work together to tell the story, have the boy use the figures of Jesus and Jairus and the girl use the figures of the mother and the girl.

**Story Song**

*Purpose:* To sing a song about the Bible story.

*Procedure:* Sing the following words to the tune of “Jack and Jill.”

A little girl was sick one day,  
And Jesus went to see her.  
But as he went, some people said,  
“She’s dead—too late to save her.”

Jesus said, “She’s just asleep.”  
The people laughed when they heard.  
But Jesus raised her from the dead  
With his almighty Word.
Story Rhyme

Purpose: To review the Bible story using words and actions.

Procedure: Say the following words and do the actions:

“My daughter is dying,”
Jairus says, “Come.”  (motion to come)
So Jesus is going
To visit their home.  (make two fingers “walk”)

When suddenly, look—(point)
A man comes to say,
“Your daughter is dead.”
Jesus keeps on his way.  (make two fingers “walk”)

The people are crying;
We hear them all weep.
   (cover eyes with hands, bow head)
But Jesus says, “Stop,
She’s just fallen asleep.”
   (rest head on hands, palms together, as if asleep)

The people are laughing—(chuckle, push hand forward with palm facing forward)
They know that she’s dead.
But Jesus goes in then,
Right up to her bed.  (make two fingers “walk”)

“Get up now,” says Jesus
As he holds her hand.
   (reach out hand and make believe lifting up)
“Tell no one,” says Jesus,
   “In all of the land.”
   (place forefinger over lips, “shh”)

2. Application

Death Discussion

Purpose: To discuss what happens when a believer dies.

Procedure: Review what a soul is: the invisible part inside a person that believes or does not believe in Jesus as the Savior. Explain that when a believer dies, that person’s soul immediately goes to heaven. However, the dead body stays behind and is often put into a special box (casket) and then buried in the ground. The dead body waits in the ground, and the soul lives in heaven until the Last Day. On the Last Day, Jesus will make the dead body come back to life when he returns to the earth. He will make our bodies new and more wonderful than before. In heaven our souls and bodies will join again and we will be with Jesus forever.

He Lives!

Purpose: To tell about Jesus rising from the dead.

Procedure: Explain that Jesus spoke the words of the memory treasure (John 14:19) to the disciples as he was preparing them for his upcoming death and resurrection. Then briefly tell the account of the first Easter morning (see Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18). Explain that both Jesus’ death and resurrection were part of his work to save us from our sins. His resurrection shows his power over death and reassures us that he will raise us from the dead someday and give us life in heaven.

3. Music

Memory Treasure Song

Purpose: To sing the message of the memory treasure.

Procedure: Have Melody teach the children to sing the following words to the tune of “Happy Birthday to You.”

Because Jesus lives,
   Because Jesus lives,
   I also will live,
Because Jesus lives.

Once the children are comfortable singing the words, have them add clapping, bells, or other rhythm ideas to further enhance their praise of God.
Heaven Songs

**Purpose:** To sing a song about life in heaven.

**Procedure:** Teach one or both of the following songs:

- Sing the following words to the tune of “I’m But a Stranger Here” (hymn 417).

  My Jesus came to save; heav’n is my home.
  His very life he gave; heav’n is my home.
  He’ll give me life in heav’n—I’ll always live with him.
  I’ll be happy all the time; heav’n is my home.

  **Suggestion:** When singing the phrase “heav’n is my home,” point up for “heav’n” and hug yourself for “my home.”

- “We Believe in Jesus,” found in Close.

Jesus’ Mighty Power

**Purpose:** To sing about Jesus using his almighty power to raise people from the dead.

**Procedure:** Sing the following words to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

Jesus used his mighty pow’r,
    mighty pow’r, mighty pow’r.
Jesus used his mighty pow’r
To raise a dead young girl.

One day he will raise us too,
    raise us too, raise us too.
One day he will raise us too.
He’ll use his mighty pow’r.

4. Art

Memory Treasure Project

**Purpose:** To illustrate the message of the memory treasure.

**Procedure:** Prepare an 18" x 12" piece of paper for each child by drawing a line down the middle so each side measures 9" x 12". Print “Because Jesus lives” on the left half and “so will I!” on the right half. Have the children illustrate the left half by drawing a picture of Jesus (or his empty tomb) and the right half by drawing self-portraits (or a fancy crown to represent a crown of life in heaven).

Memory Treasure Bulletin Board

**Purpose:** To make a visual reminder of Jesus’ promise to raise us from the dead.

**Procedure:** Use the memory treasure as the title on a bulletin board. Put a picture of Jesus next to the word *I*. Then have the children make self-portraits. Add those to the bulletin board.

**Variation:** Have each child cut out a paper crown. Take a photograph of each child. Have the children attach their photographs to their crowns. They could use fake gems, sequins, and/or glitter glue to decorate their crowns. Attach the crowned faces to the bulletin board in place of the self-portraits.

5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles

**Purpose:** To use voices and actions to express the truth that God wants all people to live in heaven with him.

**Procedure:** Say the following rhyme and have the children join you in doing the actions. Repeat so the children become familiar with both the words and actions.
Heaven is for people short. (crouch down)
Heaven is for people tall. (stand on tiptoes)
Heaven is for people big. (hold hands up high)
Heaven is for people small. (pretend to cradle baby in arms)
God does not go by color. (rub back of hand)
He loves us all the same. (hold hands against chest)
He wants us all in heaven, (point up)
Where we will praise his name. (jump up and clap)

Field Trip

*Purpose:* To increase understanding of dead bodies staying here on earth.

*Procedure:* If your church has a cemetery, take a walk through it. Explain that when people die, their bodies are usually buried in the ground. The headstones mark those places so that family and friends can remember the people who died. Remind the children that someday Jesus will come and raise the bodies of everyone from the dead. Then the souls and bodies of believers will live with Jesus in heaven forever.

Action Rhyme

*Purpose:* To learn an action rhyme about life in heaven.

*Procedure:* Teach the following words and action:

When the time comes for us to die, (close eyes and drop head)
Our bodies in the grave may lie. (lie down and fold hands over chest)
Our souls will be with Jesus in heaven, (stand and point up)
The home believers have been given. (hold hands as though giving something)
When Jesus gives our bodies life again, (raise hands, palms up)
They’ll join our souls in heaven with him. (point up)