

# 42. Impossible



## BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

### Luke 8:40-56

Jesus heals a woman with bleeding and raises Jairus' daughter from the dead



## AIMS

To help the children understand the greatness of Jesus' power, that it is even greater than death, and that nothing is impossible with God.

**Jairus' situation seemed impossible as his daughter died before Jesus was able to heal her, but Jesus showed that his power was even greater, and that he can do the impossible, when he raised her from the dead.**



## PREP FOR LEADERS

Read through the Bible passage for this session and reflect:

- What would it have been like to be in Jairus' position and to witness this miracle?
- Where have you seen God working in situations that seemed impossible?

Take some time to pray for your group.



## GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

### ► Impossible challenges

*You will need: paper (optional)*

Give the children a list of challenges, and get them to guess whether they think they are possible or impossible. They may want to try some of them to see whether they can do them.

Tickle yourself - impossible

Circle your leg in a clockwise direction – at the same time draw a number six in the air with the same hand – impossible for most people

Rub your head and pat your tummy at the same time - possible

Lick the tip of your elbow – impossible for most people

Sneeze with your eyes open - impossible

Fold paper in half seven times – impossible with a normal piece of paper (there are some stories here: <https://www.scienceabc.com/eyeopeners/can-you-really-fold-a-piece-of-paper-only-7-times.html>) of people managing to fold a piece of paper in half 12 or 13 times, but that was using a piece of toilet paper at least 1.2km long!

Touch your nose with your tongue – possible for some people

Put your left hand where your right hand can't reach it –

(continued overleaf)

possible (put it on your right elbow)

### ▶ Cereal Box Challenge

*You will need: cereal boxes, scissors*

Choose some volunteers to take part in the challenge (or allow your whole group to take part if you have a small group) and give each volunteer a cereal box.

They must place it on the floor in front of them and then pick it up using their teeth. As they do this, their feet are the only part of their body that are allowed to touch the floor.

Once they complete it, cut a few centimetres off the cereal box and get them to try again.

Continue like this, eliminating any child that fails to pick up the cereal box at each stage and gradually making the cereal box smaller and smaller. The last child left in is the winner.

### ▶ Minute To Win It Challenges

Provide the children with some challenges they have to complete in one minute. Some examples are listed below, and you can find several more ideas here:

<https://birthdayinspire.com/minute-to-win-it-games/>

To add to the drama, you could use a timer video which you can find online, for example:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J6Zmo5Q0AZ0&t=>

### Shake It Out

*You will need: empty tissue box(es), ping pong balls, string/ wool, Sellotape, timer*

In advance, attach a piece of string or wool to the bottom of an empty tissue box. Make sure the string/ wool is long enough to be tied round someone's waist. Fill the tissue box with ping pong balls.

Choose a volunteer to take part

in the challenge and help them to tie the string around their waist so that that box is at the back. Their challenge is to shake all of the ping pong balls out of the box in less than a minute. They are not allowed to touch the box with their hands but must do this by jumping up and down/ shaking their body etc.

If you have space, you could have a few children taking part in the challenge at the same time.

### Ping Pong Bounce

*You will need: six paper or plastic cups, six ping pong balls, timer*

Lay out the cups in a row on a table. Choose a volunteer to take part. Their challenge is to get a ping pong ball in each of the six cups in less than a minute by bouncing them on the table and into the cups.

### Card Shoot

*You will need: three playing cards, three wooden clothes pegs, elastic bands, timer*

Attach a clothes peg to the bottom of each of the playing cards and then stand them up in a line on a table. Choose someone to take part in the challenge and get them to stand a short distance away from the table. Provide them with a supply of elastic bands. Their challenge is to shoot the elastic bands at the playing cards and to knock down all three in less than a minute.



## EXPLORING THE BIBLE

### ▶ Recap/ Intro

**We have talked a lot over the last few weeks about Jesus' power. Can you remember some of the miracles we've heard about? He healed a blind man and a paralysed man,**

**showing his power over illness, he showed his power over a storm when he stopped it just by speaking to it, and last time we heard that he has power over sin and the power to meet our needs.**

**Today we're going to think about another story of his power. If you think the other things you have heard about him are amazing, this one actually sounds impossible!**

### ▶ Jairus' Daughter Story

*You will need: printout of words for characters (from additional document: Jairus' Daughter Words)*

Tell the story of Jairus' daughter. You could have children acting it out.

Choose people for speaking parts - Jairus, Jesus, Woman and Servant - and give them copies of their words. Also choose people for non-speaking parts - Little girl, Mother

Allocate one side of the room to be Jairus' house. Get the little girl to lie down there as if she is ill in bed with her mother looking after her. Get Jairus and the servant to stand at that side of the room as well. Get Jesus and the woman to stand at the opposite side of the room, and ask the children to act out the story as you tell it. Prompt those with speaking parts to say their words at the appropriate moments.

**One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples and they sailed across to the other side of the lake. When he arrived, a large crowd gathered around him on the shore.**

**As Jesus was teaching the people, suddenly a man called Jairus, who was a leader in the local synagogue, rushed up to Jesus and fell at his feet crying:**

"My daughter is ill. She's only 12 years old and she's dying. Please will you come and heal her so she can live."

**So Jesus went with Jairus and started heading towards his house. Many of the people in the crowd followed to see. But before they got there, something else happened.**

There was a woman in the crowd who was also ill. She had suffered from bleeding for 12 years. She had been to every doctor she could find, she had tried every cure there was, and she had spent all the money she had on doctors and medicine, but she wasn't any better - she had become worse. She had heard about Jesus and about some of the miracles he had done. She knew he could make her well, but she was scared to go and talk to him. Because of her illness she was an outcast in the town, but she was desperate for him to help her. Maybe, she thought, if I just go and touch the edge of his robe I'll be healed. So she went with the crowd and tried to stay close to Jesus, and when she got the chance, she reached out and touched the edge of his robe.

At once, she felt different. The bleeding stopped and she was well again!

But Jesus stopped walking. He had felt healing power go out from him, and he turned around to the crowd and said, "Who touched my robe?"

His disciples told him not to be silly. With the huge crowd all pressing in trying to get close to him, somebody had probably just brushed against him by accident. But Jesus kept on looking at the crowd, waiting for the person who had touched him to step forward. The woman was terrified. At first, she tried to hide and blend into the crowd but

**eventually she came forward. She was trembling as she fell on her knees at Jesus' feet and spoke to him: "I touched you. I wanted you to heal me."**

**Jesus smiled at her, took her by the hand and helped her up and he said, "Your faith has made you well. Go in peace."**

**The woman went off home to tell everyone what had happened.** (Let the child who is playing the part of the woman go and sit down.)

**Meanwhile, Jesus and the others were about to carry on their journey to Jairus' house when one of Jairus' servants came rushing up to his master with some news: "I'm sorry, but your daughter has died. There's no need to bother Jesus any more."**

**Jairus was heartbroken but Jesus had heard what the servant said, and he came over to Jairus and said, "Don't be afraid. Have faith."**

**Jesus stopped the crowd and he wouldn't let anyone else go with him apart from Jairus and three of his disciples - Peter, James and John.**

**When they got to Jairus' house the girl's mum was inside with her and there was another crowd outside, weeping and wailing. Jesus sent the crowd away and he went into the room with the girl's mum and dad and his three disciples. He went over to where the girl was lying, took her hand and said, "Little girl, get up."**

**Immediately she stood up and she walked around. She was alive, and she was completely well again! Her mother and father were amazed. Jesus told them not to tell anyone about what had happened.**

#### ► Story with images

*You will need: images printed out or on PowerPoint*

An alternative way to tell the story is to use this set of images from Free Bible Images: <http://freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jairus-daughter/> If you click on the "Story Planner" you will find a suggested script to accompany the images.



## REFLECT & RESPOND

### ► Discussion

Talk about the story together.

**Was there anything that stood out to you?**

**Do you have any questions?**

**Why do you think Jairus went to Jesus instead of asking someone else to help his daughter?**

**How do you think Jairus would have felt at the point where Jesus was helping the woman? What about when the servant arrived with the news?**

**He knew that Jesus could help someone who was sick, but it seemed like it was too late for his daughter. Then Jesus proved his power was even greater, and that he could do something that seemed impossible. Christians believe that God's power is even greater than death, and that was shown when Jesus rose from the dead. (We'll think some more about that closer to Easter.)**

**This doesn't mean that Jesus will make everyone who has died come alive again like he did here. Some of us probably have people we love who have died, and maybe we wish that would happen, but the Bible only tells us about three people Jesus raised from the dead and even they must have died again at some point. (We'd have heard about it if**

there was someone who was 2000 years old who was still alive today.)

**The Bible teaches that Jesus came to give eternal life - life that goes on forever in heaven - so these stories of people being raised from the dead are a bit unusual, but they show that God's power is stronger than death, and that he can do things that are impossible for people. These stories also give us a little glimpse of what heaven will be like because the Bible says there will be no more suffering, pain, death, or sadness.**

You could refer back to the verses from Revelation 21 which were used in Session 38 of One Big Story (see Session 38 additional document: Revelation 21).

#### **Prayer activity**

*You will need: potatoes, plastic straws (straight, not bendable)*

Ask the children if they think they can get a straw to go through a potato. You could let one or two of the children have a try. Unless they know the secret of how to do it, they will probably quickly come to the conclusion that it is impossible.

Remind them that in the story today, Jairus' situation seemed impossible, but Jesus had an answer.

Hold the potato in one hand, with your hand on the sides of the potato, not the top or bottom. Take a straw in your other hand, placing your thumb over one end of the straw so that no air can escape. Jab the straw straight down into the potato and it will go completely through. (Try this at home first to make sure that it works with the straws you have and that they are not too flimsy.)

The Bible says that "Nothing is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)

Pray, giving thanks for God's power and that nothing is impossible for him. You may want to include a moment of silence for the children to individually pray for situations where they would like to ask God for help.



#### **ADDITIONAL IDEAS**

##### **Song – Nothing's Too Big, Big, Big For His Power**

*You will need: equipment to play music*

This song fits well with today's theme: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bsEgggn344>