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An introduction to the *Introducing the Bible* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'Introducing the Bible intro.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Introducing the Bible* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: Introducing the Bible* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

Jairus' daughter

Bible reference... Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

Lesson aim... To teach the children that Jesus had the power to raise the dead because he is God's son.

This story is a difficult one for this age group because it involves death—a concept that is difficult for young children to understand. But in preparation for the Easter lesson, we want the children to grasp the fact that God can make someone who is dead alive again.

Main message... Jesus made the dead girl alive again. Jesus could make her alive because he is God's son.

Story preparation... Print pages 60 and 61. Cut along the dotted line on page 61. Place this on page 60 so that the sleeves match up and it covers Jesus' hand. Attach it (with tape or blu-tack) in such a way that the flap can be lifted up. First show the picture with the flap down (showing the dead girl). Alternatively, you could make up activity #1 to use as a visual aid.

Introduction...

Sadly, some children will know what it means that someone has died because even at this early stage they have already experienced someone, or something, dying. However, not all will be in this situation, so it is necessary to give some sort of explanation in introducing this lesson. However this must be done with sensitivity. It may even be a matter which you warn the parents about in advance, giving the parents the chance to (a) explain it to their own children beforehand in their own way, knowing their own child's sensitivities, and (b) to advise you of any loss the child might have suffered recently which may make their child particularly sensitive.

So how to explain death? Saying that when people are dead they are 'not alive' is not really very helpful. So we need to contrast the two in terms of what children know.

“When people are alive, they do things. They talk, they walk, they eat, they breathe—they do lots of different things. And we enjoy them being alive. We enjoy being able to talk to them, and hug them, and play with them.

“But when people die, they stop doing all those things. They can’t talk to us, they can’t hug us, and they can’t play with us anymore. And that is very sad; it’s sad that we can’t be with them anymore. And it’s not like being sick; when people die, they don’t get better. They stay like that.

“Today we’re going to read a true story in the Bible about a girl who dies. That sounds like it’s going to be a very sad story, doesn’t it? But you know what! This story has a happy ending!”

Story...

“One day a lot of people were around Jesus. An important man called Jairus came to where Jesus was. He bent down at Jesus’ feet. Jairus said to Jesus, ‘My little daughter is very, very sick and might die. Please come and make her better so that she will live.

“Jesus went with Jairus. On the way, a big crowd was around him. Can you remember that last week we heard that a sick lady touched Jesus and she was better straight away? Well, after Jesus had made her better, some people came from Jairus’ house to tell Jairus that his sick daughter had died. They thought that Jesus would not be able to help now, because dead people don’t get better—they stay dead.

“But Jesus told Jairus not to be scared. Jesus went to Jairus’ house with three of his disciples. When they got there, there were lots of people outside crying—they were very sad because the little girl had died.

[show page 60 with the flap down] “Jesus went into the room where the girl was, with the girl’s mother and father and his three disciples. Jesus held her hand and said to her, ‘Little girl, get up!’ *[lift flap]* The girl got up straight away and started walking around.

“The people there were amazed. *[lower flap]* The girl was dead. *[lift up flap]* But now she is alive and not sick anymore. She wasn’t *[lower flap]* moving at all before. But now *[lift flap]* she is walking around.

“Jesus told the people to give the girl something to eat.”

Conclusion...

[show picture with flap down] “Jairus’s daughter was dead. *[lift flap]* But Jesus made her alive again. She was not even sick anymore—she could walk and eat. Only Jesus can make someone who is dead alive again, because Jesus is God’s son.”

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that Jesus was able to make the girl alive again. Thank you that Jesus can do things that we can’t do, because he is your son. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. *Moving girl*

Before the lesson, print page 62 and cut an upper and lower body section for each child. You will also need some split pins. Depending on the ability of your children to do drawings, print either page 63 or 64 (page 63 has a picture frame on her wall, and page 64 doesn't). If you think that your children could draw a picture of something in a picture frame, then print page 63. If your children would be best colouring the walls (and therefore scribbling all over them) then go for page 64.

In the lesson, first show the children a completed activity and read the caption. Explain that the bed is in her bedroom, and they can colour her bedspread and colour her wall. If you are giving the children page 63 explain about drawing a picture in the picture frame on her wall. Then give each child page 63 or 64 to colour/draw. Once completed, the teacher places a split pin through the upper and lower body of the girl and into the bed where indicated. Cover the ends of the split pin with tape for safety. The girl can lie down and sit up in bed or stand next to the bed.

2. *Picture*

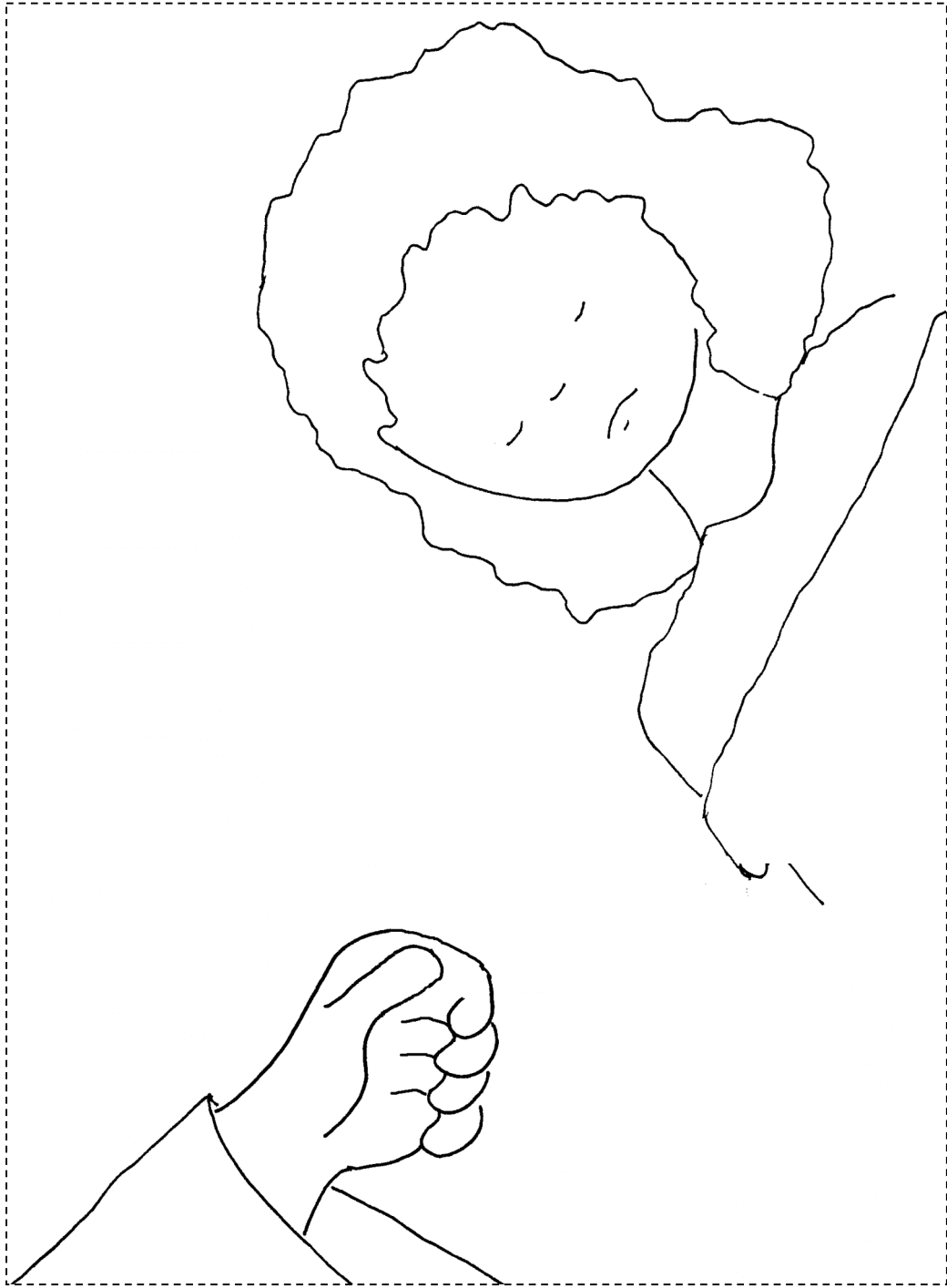
Before the lesson, print page 65 or 66 for each child. The main difference is the size of the drawings that the children can do. For page 65, the children colour the girl and then draw the girl's happy family behind her. For page 66 you will need to cut along the dotted line and paste this and a caption (from page 59) on an A3 page for the children to colour. Then they draw the child's happy family. (A3 is preferable for younger children as they can draw big people.)

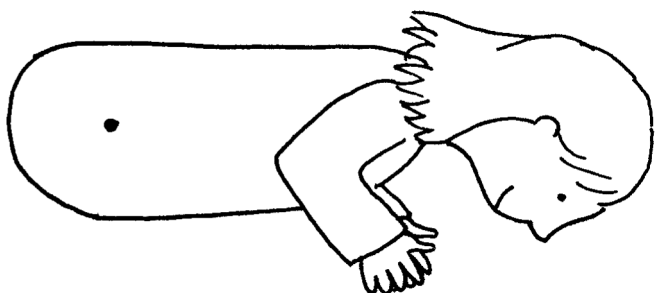
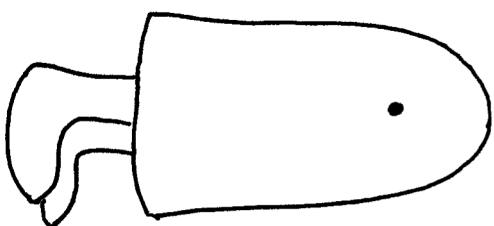
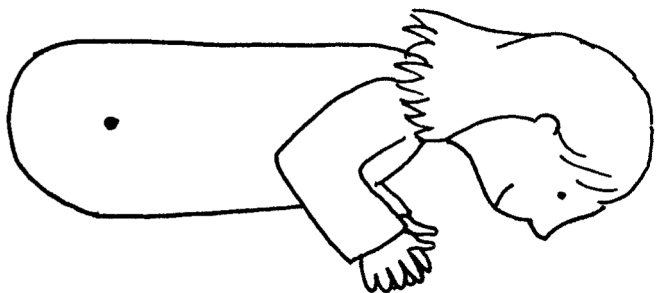
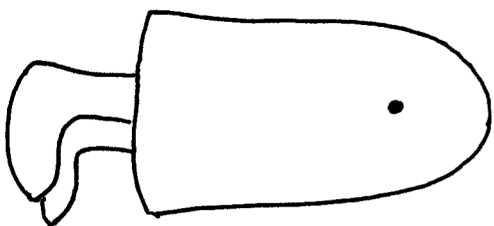
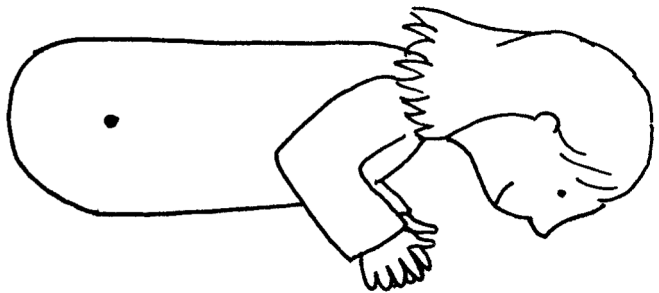
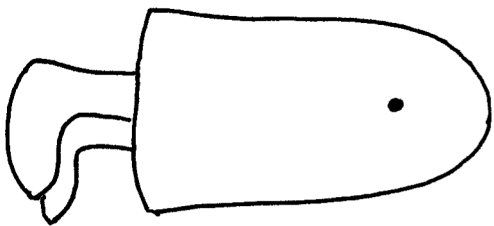
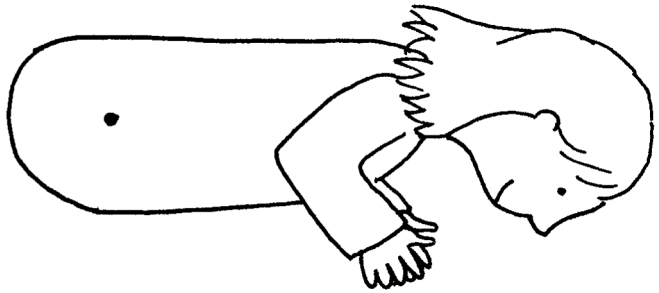
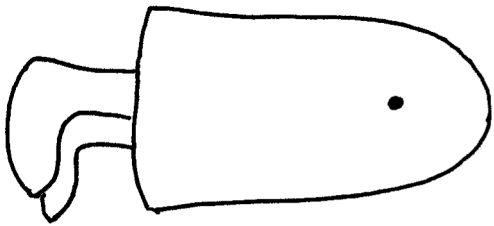
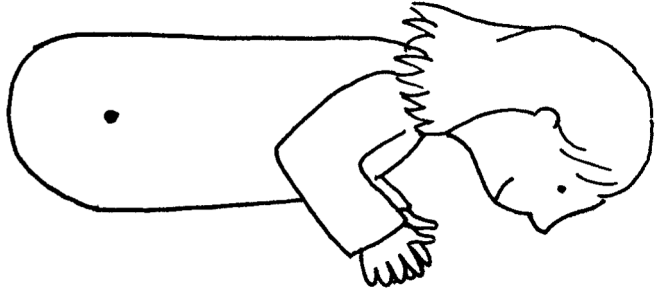
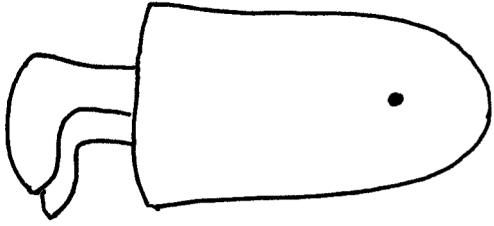
If 'drawing' is not appropriate for your children due to their age/abilities, then instead of 'drawing' the family members, the children can paste on pieces of paper to colour the wall of her bedroom (before the lesson, rip or cut some coloured paper or wrapping paper into pieces about 2-5 cm wide, depending whether it is A4 or A3 paper, and place in a container for the lesson). Alternatively, the children can 'colour' the wall of her bedroom by scribbling.

3. Finger puppet

Before the lesson, print page 67 and cut out one 'girl' for each child. It would be ideal if this was on thick paper or thin cardboard to make her stronger (you could copy the girl onto cardboard). Cut out the two holes. Print page 59 and cut out a caption for each child. Paste each caption on the back of the 'girl'. For the lesson you will also need either stickers or collage items (like shapes cut from coloured paper and coloured patty case segments). In the lesson, you need to first show the children a completed activity, read the caption, show how to make the girl walk and how she will be going home in an envelope to keep safe. Place an envelope in front of each child. The children decorate the envelope by adding stickers or pasting on collage items. Then give each child a 'girl' (if you think that your children could manage it, without ripping her, they could colour her). The children can make their 'girls' walk and then place them securely in the envelope to take home.

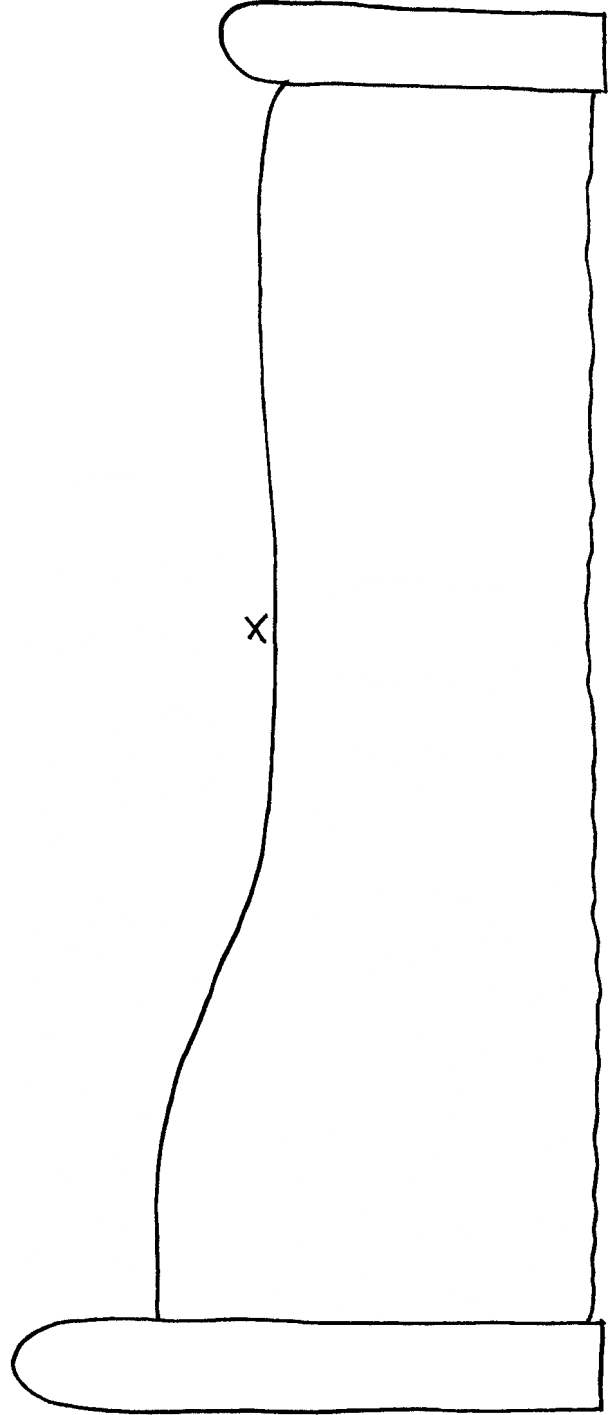
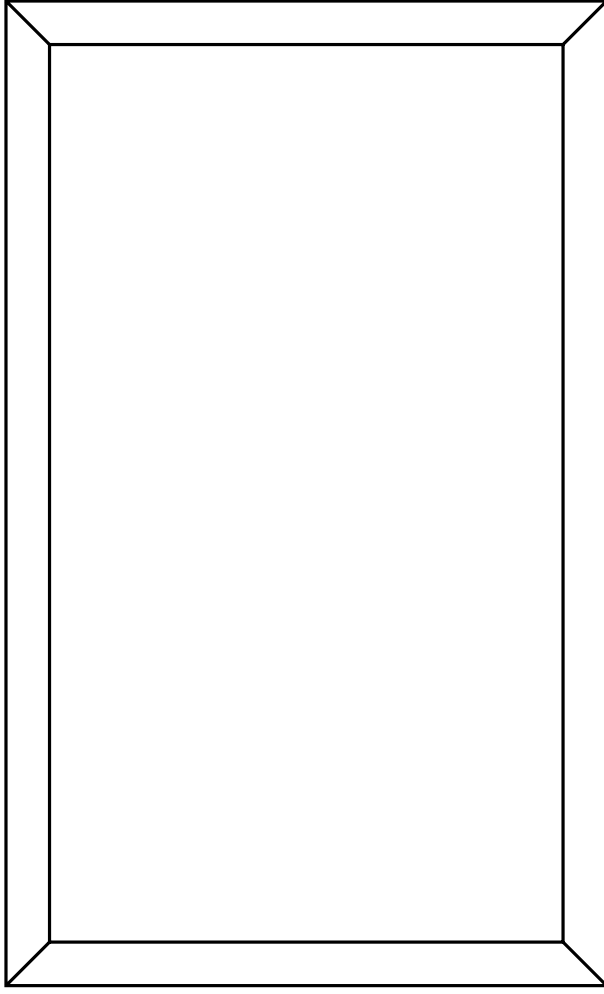




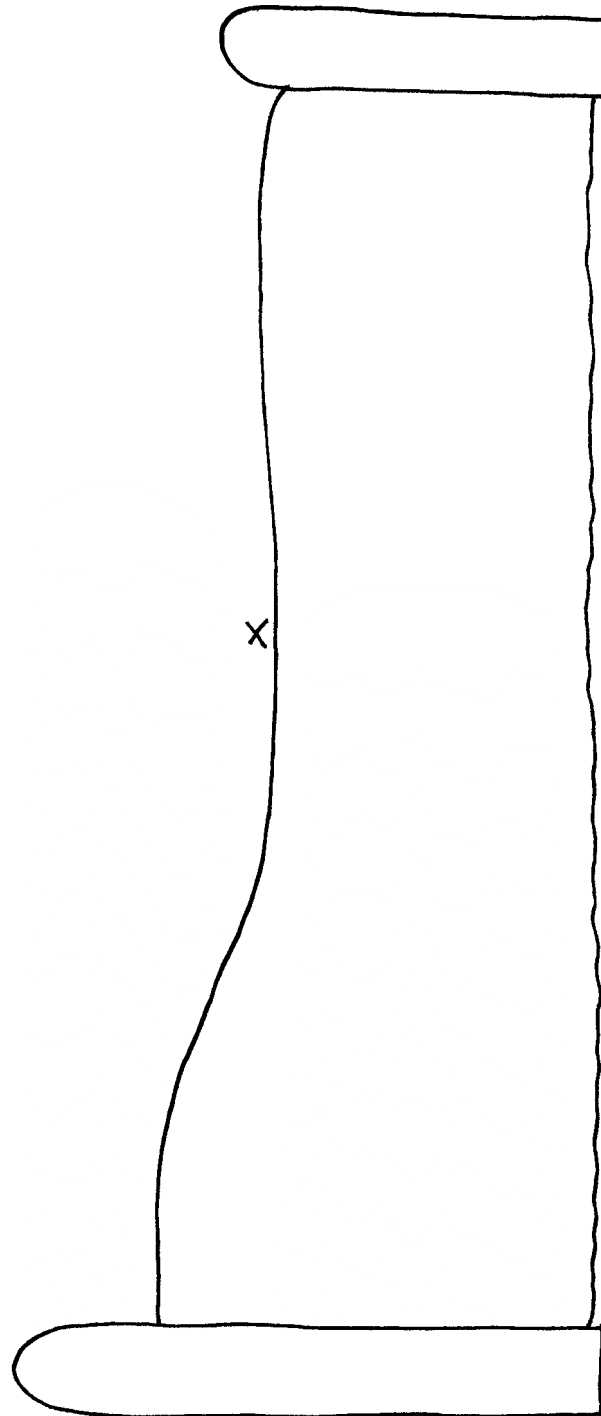




Jesus made the dead girl alive again. Jesus could make her alive because he is God's son. Mark 5 verses 21-24, 35-43

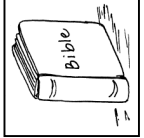


Jesus made the dead girl alive again. Jesus could make her alive because he is God's son. Mark 5 verses 21-24, 35-43





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Mark 5 verses 21-24, 35-43

