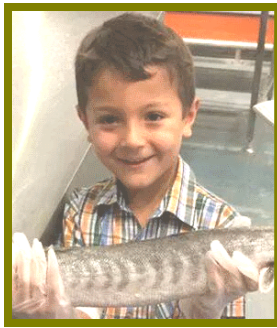


# **Jesus, Miracles, and Children**



**Compiled and written by Sandy Harris  
Designed by Norma Hays**

**This book is dedicated  
to all the precious children  
that Jesus created.**



**All God's children are beautiful colors of the rainbow.**

# Jesus, Miracles, and Children



Written & Compiled by Sandy Harris

Designed by Norma Hays

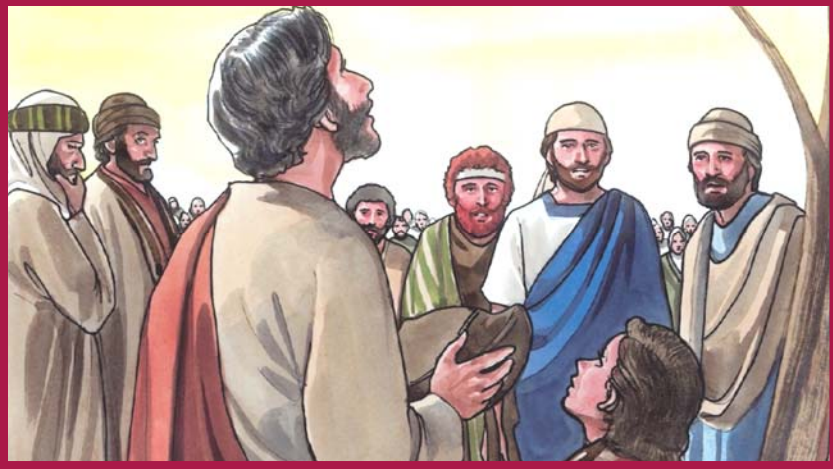
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## JESUS AND THE LITTLE BOY WITH 5 LOAVES AND TWO FISH

Waking up early on a sunny, spring morning, \*Josiah remembered that today he was going to go see Jesus and hear Him teach about God! It was almost time for the yearly Passover Feast, and Josiah was excited that during this special time, he could go to see Jesus in person!

Josiah's mother had packed him a meal of 5 little barley loaves and 2 small fish because she knew her growing son was ALWAYS hungry! He thanked her and hurried to get ready for this special journey.

Later that morning, Josiah followed the large crowd that was headed toward the mountain near the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Many of the people were talking about the miracles they heard Jesus was doing around their area. They discussed about Jesus healing all kinds of diseases and were hoping they could see some of these miracles for themselves. In the crowd there were people who were hoping for their own miracle!

As Josiah listened to the people talking, he could hardly believe these amazing stories! The crowd kept moving slowly to the area where Jesus and His disciples had landed their boat.

Jesus stood up and welcomed the crowd of people, speaking to them about the Kingdom of God and curing those who had need of healing. Watching all of this excitement, Josiah didn't realize how much time had passed.

He heard the disciples say, "Jesus, send the people away because there is no place to buy food nearby, and it is getting late."

However Josiah was surprised to hear Jesus reply, " You give them something to eat."

Philip gazed at Jesus with a puzzled look. "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little." (200 denarii was the money a person would make for 200 days of work!)

Because there were 5,000 men, not even counting the number of women and children, this number of people would only get a few crumbs!

Another disciple, Andrew, came up and brought the news of what food they had found among the huge crowd: "There is a lad here who has 5 barley loaves and 2 fish, but what are these for so many people?"



Josiah looked up when he heard Andrew, because he knew that was exactly what his mother had packed for him! He gladly handed the food to Andrew, and then watched with astonishment what happened next!

Jesus told the disciples to have the people sit down on the beautiful green grass in groups of 50. Then He took Josiah's little meal, and looked up into heaven and gave thanks to God as He blessed the food.

The disciples took the food and gave out the pieces of bread and fish to everyone who was resting on the grass. They ate, and they ate, and they ate! The book of John says the people ate as much as they wanted!

Then Jesus sent the disciples among the people again to pick up the leftover food so that nothing would be wasted. Josiah couldn't believe what he was seeing with his own eyes! From his 5 loaves and 2 fish, each man, woman and child had eaten until they were full and then, as the disciples brought the baskets of food left and put them in front of Jesus, Josiah counted 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12! 12 full baskets!

Josiah smiled as he thought about how much fun it would be to tell his mother how 5 barley loaves and 2 fish had fed all those people, just because Jesus didn't want the people to be hungry on their journey home! Josiah had watched Jesus thanking God for the food as He looked toward heaven. He knew he would never forget the miracle of feeding thousands of people with his little meal.

### Notes to Parents:

\* This story about Jesus is found in all 4 of the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. A few verses later in John 6:35 and 48, Jesus says that He is the "Bread of Life." Just as bread was one of the most important foods that kept people alive in the time that Jesus lived on earth, we can learn an important lesson about bread too: JESUS CAME TO GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO THE WORLD, JUST LIKE BREAD HELPS GIVE PEOPLE PHYSICAL LIFE WHEN WE EAT IT.

\* The Bible doesn't name the little boy in this story, but we have given him a fictional name to make the story more readable.

\* This story is found in Matt. 14: 14-23; Mark 6: 31-46; Luke 9: 11-17; and John 6:1-15, 35 and 48.

\* Not many of us have probably eaten barley bread, but here is a recipe for barley soup you might like to make with your mom.

## Barley Soup Recipe

3 stalks of chopped celery

1 and 1/2 cups chopped carrots

2 cups chopped cooked chicken

1 chopped onion

1 cup Quaker Oats barley, which comes in a small box

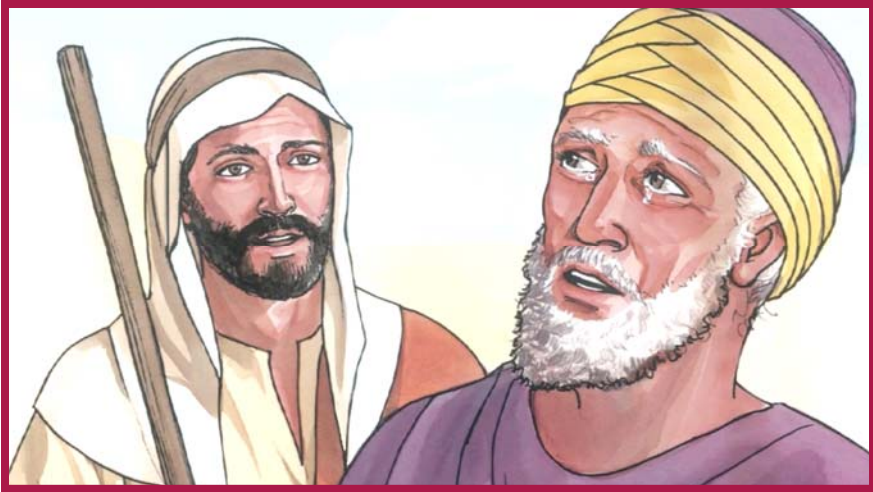
5 cups chicken stock (I like using 2 tablespoons of "Better Than Bouillon" chicken base with 5 cups water)

Salt and pepper to taste

Boil 5 cups water with 2 tablespoons of 'Better Than Bouillon' chicken base so that it is completely dissolved. Add the rest of the ingredients and cook about 30 minutes.

Enjoy!





## A LITTLE GIRL, A SICK WOMAN, AND TWO MIRACLES

Jairus' beautiful 12 year old, \*Talitha, was his only daughter and the delight of his heart! Jairus was an important leader in his town's synagogue (like a church in Jesus' day). Jairus was a very respected man in his community, and he had heard about Jesus and His miracles from others who lived near him. As important as Jairus was, he never expected that he would need a miracle from Jesus one day!

Talitha had not been feeling well, but sadly as it got later in the day, she got worse. That night, both Jairus and his wife sat beside their daughter's bed. Dipping pieces of cloth in cool water, her mother put these on Talitha's head to hopefully help her feel better. However, the next morning Talitha was much worse, and Jairus and his wife knew the sad truth, that their beautiful daughter was dying!

Grabbing his best robe, Jairus rushed out the door, racing as quickly as he could to the seashore, where a huge crowd had gathered to see Jesus. Frantically, he pushed his way up front. Jairus fell at Jesus' feet in desperation as he poured out his story: "My little daughter is at the point of death; PLEASE come and lay Your hands on her, that she may get well and live!"

Jesus left at once. The great crowd was following Him so closely that it was hard for Him to move forward. Among the people, was a woman who had suffered with a severe blood disease for 12 years. She had heard about Jesus healing people who were sick, so she was pressing through the crowd to get close to Him. This lady had gone to many doctors over the years and spent all the money she had to try and get well. However, not only did they not help her, she had gotten worse.

Coming up behind Jesus, she thought to herself, "If I just touch His garment (outer robe), I shall get well." As she reached out and placed her hand on the fringe of the robe, immediately she was healed!

Jesus instantly knew His healing power had gone out to someone so He asked, "Who touched My garments?" The woman, trembling from fear, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. Jesus tenderly looked at her and said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction (disease)."

While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from Jairus' house saying, "Your daughter has died; why trouble the Teacher anymore?"

**"Daughter, your faith has made you well;  
go in peace and be healed  
of your affliction (disease)."**



But Jesus, who overheard the conversation, said to Jairus, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."

As they arrived, Jesus only allowed Peter, James, and John to go any further with Him. They saw a great commotion, with people weeping and wailing loudly because of Talitha's death.

Entering the house, Jesus turned and asked, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep."

The people began laughing at Jesus and mocking Him, because He said she was asleep. He had them leave and took Jairus, his wife and His 3 disciples and entered the room where Talitha was lying. Jesus looked down upon this precious little girl, took her by the hand, and He said to her, "Talitha, kum!" Translated this means, "Little Girl, I say to you, arise!"





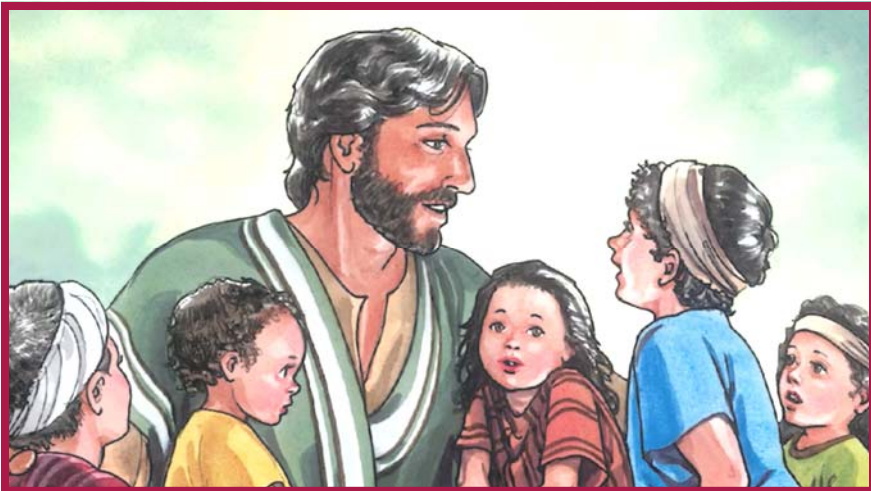
The books of Luke and Mark say that her spirit immediately returned and she rose up and began to walk! Her parents and the 3 disciples were completely astonished at this beautiful miracle that could only be accomplished by Jesus, the Son of God!

### **Notes to Parents:**

\* Jesus raised Talitha from the dead. Why did He tell the people she was asleep before he performed the miracle? The Moody Bible Commentary (p. 1528) says that "by this figure Jesus taught that death is a temporary condition, much like sleep." The ESV study Bible says (p. 2056), "From Jesus' viewpoint her real death is but sleep."

\* Talitha means "little girl" (Mark 5:41), so I chose that for her name in the story.

\* This story can be found in Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; and Luke 8:41-56. I used the verses from Mark as the basis for writing the story because it gave the most detail and took the Scripture from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.



## JESUS LOVES AND VALUES CHILDREN

Walking down the dusty road toward Capernaum, the disciples of Jesus began arguing among themselves who was the greatest. Can't you almost hear them? "I'm the greatest!" "No, I'm the greatest!" "No, it's me; I'm the greatest."

After they arrived in the town, Jesus asked the question, "What were you discussing with one another on the way?" The disciples were embarrassed and silent.

Because Jesus knows everything, He knew what they had been saying. However, instead of scolding the disciples, Jesus sat down, called His helpers and said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, let him be last of all and servant of all."

Jesus was the King of all the universe, and yet He had left heaven to come and die for our sins. He became a servant, and He wants all His followers to treat everyone with great respect. He wants us to care about others and show them kindness.

To demonstrate to the disciples what He meant, Jesus took a child and put him in the middle of their circle. He took the child in His arms and said, Whoever receives one child like this

in My name receives Me..." Jesus was showing the disciples that the little child was of great worth to God! How they would treat a child would be as if they were treating Jesus the same way.

Jesus had a further word for His disciples in Mark 9:42. "And whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would be better for him if, with a heavy millstone (very large stone) hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea." Jesus was using a colorful word picture to tell His helpers that God will severely punish people who try to persuade the little ones who believe in Him to instead believe things that are untrue.

So far in this story, Jesus shows the disciples these two truths. Did the disciples learn their lessons? Let's find out. The Bible says a short time later, Jesus was teaching a crowd of people. After He had shared God's word with them, some parents brought their children to Jesus that He might lay His hands on them and pray. (Matthew 19:13)

However, the disciples turned them away as if Jesus didn't have time for the children because He was so busy with more important things! Mark 10:13 says the disciples "rebuked" the parents. That is a strong word meaning the disciples used a

harsh tone of voice when they spoke.

At the same time the disciples were speaking, Jesus looked up and saw what was happening. He must have wondered if His helpers would ever learn the lessons He had recently taught about children: the worth of a child (Mark 9: 36-37) and God's punishment on those who tell children who believe in Jesus, things that are false (Mark 9:42).

Because the disciples had not learned these truths, Jesus was indignant! Indignant is an extremely strong word! It means Jesus was greatly displeased, maybe even angry that they would turn away children! He immediately corrected the disciples by saying, "Permit (or allow) the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the Kingdom of God belongs to such at these. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child (have a trusting heart in Jesus) shall not enter it at all."

Then Jesus picked up the children in His arms, put His hand upon their heads and began blessing them.

Jesus dearly loves children. He always has time for them, and He wants them to know how very important they are to God!

## Notes to Parents:

\* This Bible story of Jesus is found in 3 of the Gospels: Matthew 19: 13-15; Luke 18:15-17; Mark 9: 36-37, 9: 42 and 10: 13-16.

\* The New American Standard Bible was used for the Scriptural quotations.

\* Capernaum was a beautiful town right on the Sea of Galilee. It was the home of disciples and brothers, Peter and Andrew, who had been fishermen, and where Jesus lived during part of His ministry. (Matthew 4:13-18)

## RUINS OF GREAT SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM



**CAPERNAUM RUINS -  
(aerial view)**



**RUINS OF SYNAGOGUE AT CAPERNAUM -  
(aerial view)**







## JESUS HEALS FROM A DISTANCE

A Roman centurion, who was a soldier with 100 soldiers under his command, heard that Jesus had returned to Capernaum. This commander had a servant boy who was very dear to him, and the youth was suffering great pain and about to die.

The centurion sent some Jewish leaders to Jesus to ask Him to come and save the life of his servant. The word "save" in this verse also means "to bring safely through" or "rescue."

After the Jewish leaders arrived where Jesus was, they pleaded with Him saying, " He (the centurion) is worthy for You to grant this to Him; for he loves our nation, and it was he who built us our synagogue."

Jesus started on His way with these men, but when He was close to the house, the centurion sent some friends to speak for him these surprising words: "Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I, too, am a man under authority with soldiers under me, and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes; and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this!' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed at the centurion's faith. This man believed Jesus could heal the servant by just speaking a word and didn't even need to go to his house to heal the sick youth!

Jesus turned to the great crowd of people following Him and said, " I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith."

When those friends who had been sent to speak to Jesus returned to the home of the centurion, they found that the servant boy had been healed that very hour!

### **Notes to Parents:**

\* This miracle is found in Luke 7:1-10 and Matthew 8:5-13 , and I have used the New American Standard Bible.

\* The dialogue in the story came from Luke's version, which gives more detail.

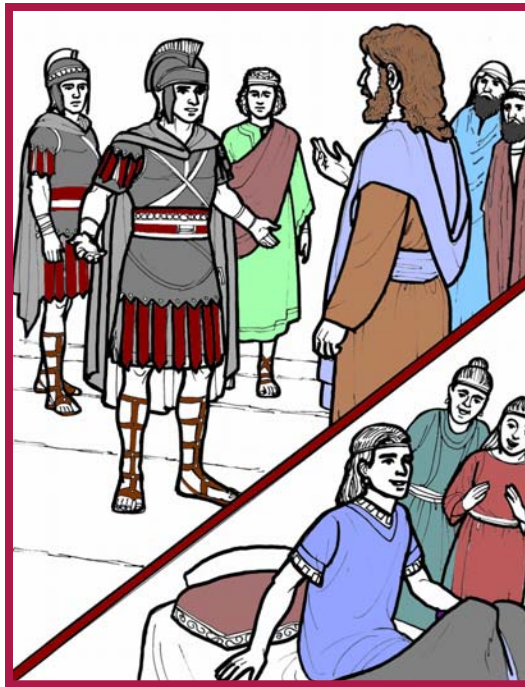
\* Interesting Greek word meanings:

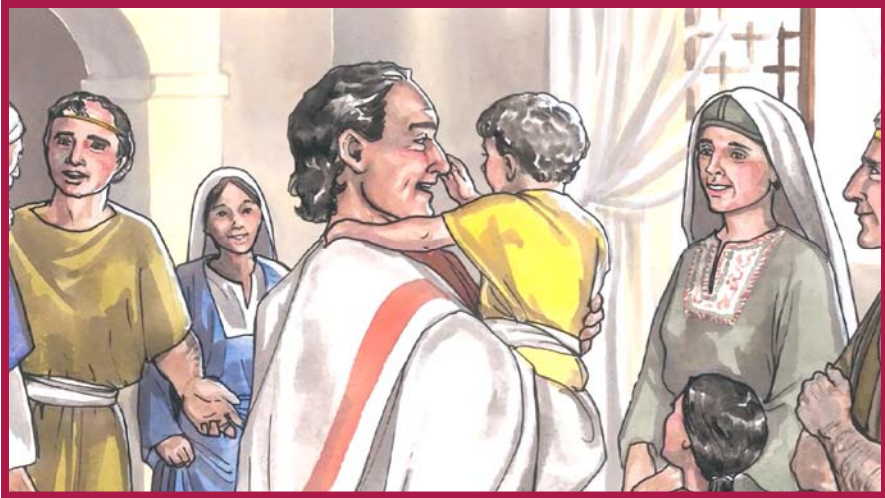
1. servant-(Matt. 8:6) Greek "pias" meaning child, boy, youth
2. entreating (Matt. 8:5) Greek "parakaleo" meaning pleading, begging

3. marveled (Matt. 8:10) Greek "thaumazo" meaning wonder, admire, regard with amazement

\* Capernaum was the site of this miracle. Capernaum was a beautiful town right on the Sea of Galilee. It was the home of disciples and brothers, Peter and Andrew, who had been fishermen, and where Jesus lived during part of His ministry. (Matthew 4:13-18)

**" I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith."**





## A SON HEALED AND A FAMILY SAVED

Jesus was telling people about God's Kingdom in the town of Cana of Galilee. There was a royal official who worked for King Herod Antipas, so he was an extremely important man. When he heard that Jesus had come to Cana, which was 16.5 miles away, he immediately traveled there to see Jesus. After the long journey, the official found Jesus and began to beg Him to come down and heal his son, who was at the point of death.

In the time that Jesus lived on earth, doctors didn't have much knowledge of how to help people, and they did not have the good medicine that we have today. Because of that, many people died when they were young.

The royal official pleaded with Jesus, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your son lives." The man **believed** the words that Jesus spoke to him, and he headed on his journey toward his home in Capernaum.

As he traveled the 16.5 miles, I wonder what the official was thinking. Because he believed Jesus, he must have thought what a wonderful reunion he would have with his son and how he would tell him exactly what Jesus had said.

As he got closer to home, some of the officials' servants came to meet him saying that his son was living! The royal official must have been smiling because he already knew the good news! He asked the servants what time the boy began to get better. They replied, "Yesterday at 1:00 pm the fever left him."

John 5:53 says, "So the father knew that it was at that hour (the exact time) in which Jesus said to him, 'Your son lives.' "

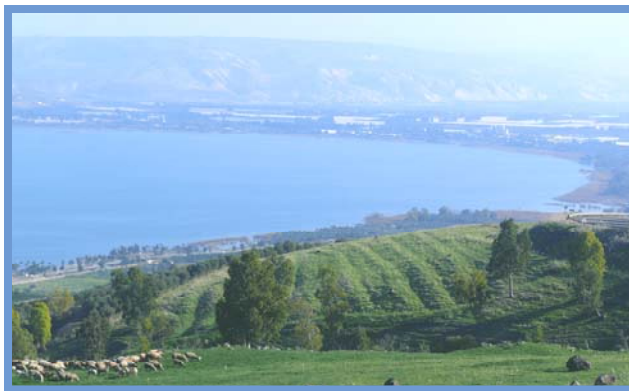
That was an amazing miracle, but there was another one too. The Bible says that the royal official **believed in Jesus** and his whole household also **believed**. That means that the father, mother, child, any other children, and all the servants **believed in Jesus for salvation!** That is an even greater miracle than the physical healing, for **believing in Jesus** and receiving **salvation** is the most wonderful miracle of all!

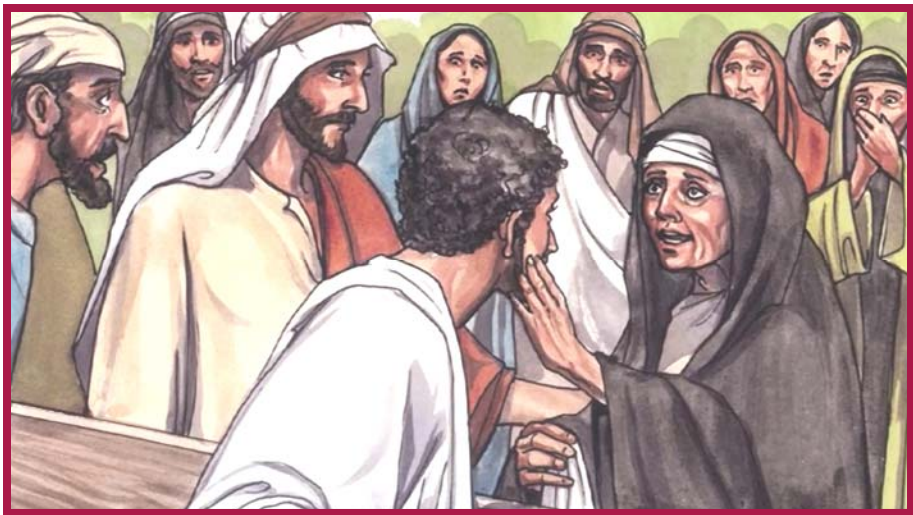


## Notes to Parents:

- \* This story is only found in one Gospel, the book of John.
- \* The New American Standard Bible was used with quotations coming from John 4: 46-53.
- \* The seventh hour in John 4:52 is 1:00pm.
- \* As are a number of the stories I've chosen about Jesus and children, the town of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee is prominent.
- \* Capernaum was a beautiful town right on the Sea of Galilee. It was the home of disciples and brothers, Peter and Andrew, who had been fishermen, and where Jesus lived during part of His ministry. (Matthew 4:13-18)

### SEA OF GALILEE







## A WIDOW'S SON RAISED FROM THE DEAD

After Jesus healed the centurion's servant who was close to death, He and his disciples then made a trip to the town of Nain. Walking on the narrow, dusty road, it would have taken Jesus and His disciples several days to walk the 31.7 miles from Capernaum to Nain.

However, Jesus arrived in Nain at just the perfect time! Jesus had a huge crowd following Him as he entered the town, and as He approached the gate to the walled-in city, a funeral for a young man was underway. He was being carried out of the city to be buried.

The Bible says that this youth was the only son of his mother and that she was already a widow (a lady whose husband had died), so now she was all alone. After her son's death, a group of men were carrying the coffin to his burial place outside the walls of the city. A sizeable crowd was following with the young man's mother to show their respect.

When Jesus saw the mother's sadness, He had compassion (a feeling of tenderness) for her and spoke gently, "Stop weeping." The Bible says He came up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it came to a halt. Then Jesus said these surprising words: "Young man, I say to you, arise!"

Immediately, the lady's dead son sat up and began to speak! Luke 7:15b tells us, "And Jesus gave him back to his mother." Can you imagine how her devastating sorrow of a few minutes before had now turned into the greatest joy of her life?

Some were saying, "A great prophet (someone who spoke for God) has arisen among us!" Others said, "God has visited His people!"

However, Jesus was not merely a great prophet. He was the Son of God, the One who has both the authority and the power to raise the dead back to life! The people who had attended what they thought was going to be a funeral, as well as the crowd that had followed Jesus on the road and into the city of Nain, spread the news of this amazing miracle far and wide!

### **Notes to Parents:**

\* The quotations from this story were taken from The New American Standard Bible.

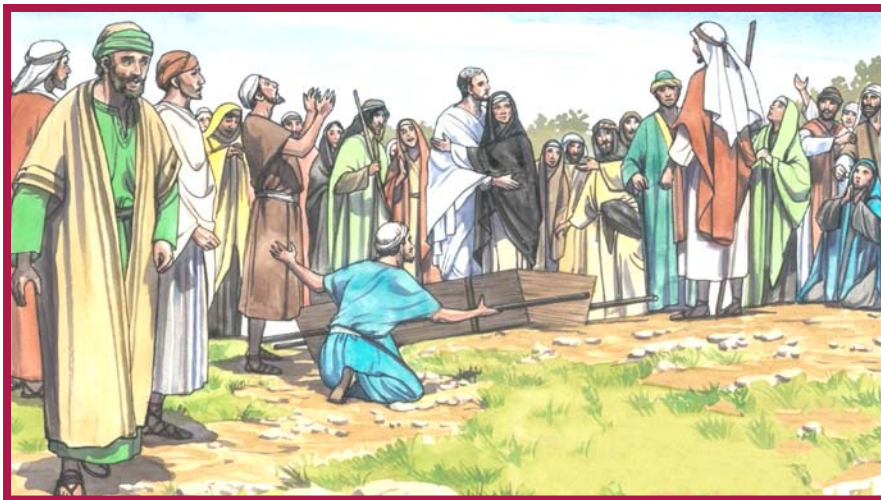
\* This story is only found in the Gospel of Luke. (Luke 7:11-17)

\*"Do not weep" in Luke 7:13 literally means "stop weeping."

\* "Fear" in Luke 7:16 is also translated "awe," which I felt was easier for children to understand in the context of this story.

\* Research of Jesus' time shows that coffins were probably carried through the city without the lid, which was placed on top before the body was lowered into the ground. Thus, when Jesus raised the young man from the dead, he was able to immediately sit upright.

**"And Jesus gave him back to his mother."**



**“I am the good shepherd:  
the good shepherd lays down his life  
for the sheep.”  
John 10:11**





## References - JMC

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H & H Children's Ministry

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How to be saved:

1. Confess your sin.

"All have sinned." Romans 3:23 NKJV

2. Ask Jesus to save you.

"Whoever will call on the name of the LORD  
will be saved." Romans 10:13 NASB

3. Pray like this:

Dear Jesus: "Please forgive me of my sins  
and come into my life.

Thank you Jesus, for saving me."

Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth,  
and the life; no one comes to the Father,  
but through me. John 14:6 NASB

Today on \_\_\_\_\_(date)

\_\_\_\_\_(name)

accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**J M C**



**“Allow the children to come to Me...for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”**

**Luke 18:16 NASB**