



Small Stewards – Big Blessings

Biblical Stewardship Lessons for and with Children

(Small Stewards” focuses on Biblical stories celebrating God’s children. The lessons can be shared with children in Sunday school openings, classroom settings, children’s worship messages, or other congregational settings. The lessons may also be used for family devotions or table talks. “Notes to Family” offers applications and explorations for home dialogs.)

Text: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43 (Jairus’ Daughter)

What makes you afraid? There are the familiar phobias of children and adults (darkness, snakes, spiders). Few things are as frightening to a parent or grandparent as a seriously sick child. We can understand the fear of Jairus, who comes to Jesus begging on behalf of his daughter who is “at the point of death.” (vs. 23) The fears of the father changed from fear for her to fears for himself. The father is told that his daughter is dead. What would he do without her? The all-powerful Jesus takes the dead twelve year-old girl by the hand and says, “Little girl, I say to you, arise.” The little girl gets up, walks, and eats.

Jesus who took away the fears of Jairus and His family takes away the fear of death for everyone. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have His promise that we too will rise. Through the Apostle Paul, we hear God’s assurance, “We shall not all sleep. . . . For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.” (I Corinthians 15:51-52). Assured that Jesus’ victory over death is ours, we can bring all our fears to Him all the time. Jesus speaks to us when he says, “Do not fear, only believe.” (vs. 36) We believe Jesus’ promises. We can trust that Jesus will take care of us in life and death.

Some of our fears have to do with money: “Will I have enough to pay my bills?” Lutheran Church Extension Funds helps people save money for emergencies, retirement, and other circumstances. Investments in LCEF help take away money fears. LCEF provides an opportunity for children to learn how to share, save, and spend as they participate in the Young Investor Club.

Investments in LCEF also help churches take away money fears: “Will we have enough to fix the church roof?” “How will we pay for the new church building?” As they participate in Y.I. Club, children can be partners in providing resources to build and grow the church. Parents and children can learn more by visiting www.lcef.org.

Prayer: Dear Jesus you know all my fears. Help me to trust you in life and in death. Amen.

Small Stewards Bring Big Blessings Home—Notes to Family

What was Jairus afraid of when he came to Jesus? How did Jesus take away His fears? What are you afraid of? Why did Jesus say that the dead little girl was “sleeping”? How can Jesus’ words, “Do not fear, only believe” help you when you are afraid?

Parents, it is important to be sensitive to the fears of our children. More importantly, we share with them that Jesus knows and calms all their fears.