



S2.Lesson 21: Jesus & The Old Testament - Dead (or not!) Children

Middle School Lesson Plans

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout; tv or laptop to show movie clip (movie clip link is available at rfour.org/curriculum.html)

OPENING PRAYER

TELL/ASK

- We are starting a new session today.
- As you've noticed on your handout, the name of the new session is "Jesus and The Old Testament." What Testament are the stories of Jesus actually found in? (The New Testament)
- Right. So what we're going to do is look at how a number of things Jesus did that also happened in the Old Testament.
- We're going to start with stories of children who have died.
- We'll start with the Old Testament story first and right after it we'll read the Jesus story.
- It involves the prophet Elijah. Do you remember any other stories that we've talked about this year that he's been in? (The Transfiguration)

READ - 1 kings 17:17-24

17 After this, the son of the woman became ill; his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him and he died. 18 The woman (his mother) then said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" 19 But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." He took the child from the woman, carried him up into the upper chamber where he was lodging, and laid the child on his own bed. 20 He cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, have you brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I am staying, by killing her son?" 21 Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's life come into him again." 22 The Lord listened to the voice of Elijah; the life of the child came into him again, and he revived. 23 Elijah took the child, brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; then Elijah said, "See, your son is alive." 24 So the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth."

Mark 5

22 Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet 23 and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." 24 So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding

stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. 30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" 31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" 32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." 35 While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" 36 Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." 37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. 38 When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. 39 He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." 40 But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. 41 He took her by the hand and said to her, ""Talitha koum!"" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). 42 Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. 43 He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

ASK about Elijah Story

- In the Old Testament story, how do the woman and Elijah know each other (the clue is in verse 19)? (he's lodging/living there)
- What is the mother's response when her son dies? (she blames Elijah – thinks Elijah is out to get her and her son)
 - Do you do this -- When something bad happens, do you blame other people?
 - When you blame other people, what is their usual response?
 - With that in mind, what do you think of Elijah's response to take the child upstairs with him?
 - What do you think the woman's thinking when he does this?
- Does it seem strange to you that Elijah, with God's help, can bring the boy back to life, but didn't heal him when he was sick? Why do you think this might be? (Elijah may not have been around – prophets, like Jesus, tended to move around a lot)
- When Elijah is bringing the boy back to life, who does he speak to? (To God)
- What does Elijah say? (verse 20-22)
- What is the mother's response when Elijah brings her son back to life?

ASK about Jesus story

- In the New Testament story, there are two stories for the price of one. The story of the woman's healing is placed inside of the story of the daughter being raised from the dead. How does the Jairus and the woman who is bleeding know Jesus? (by reputation, it seems)
- So, unlike Elijah and the woman, the relationship between Jesus and the people asking for healing is not as personal, right?
- Yet, what is Jesus' response to the Jairus? (Jesus goes with him to Jairus' house)
- Why do you think Jesus went?
- In verse 35, what is the message that is brought to Jairus and Jesus? (the daughter is dead)

- When Jesus tells Jairus to be NOT afraid, do you think Jairus is able to do this very well?
 - Does Jesus' response to the news of the daughter's death seem at all similar to Elijah's response to the news of the son's death?
 - Do you think Jairus might've been tempted to blame Jesus? For instance, he might've wanted to say: You wasted your time healing this woman, when we should've been getting to my house quicker!
- Verse 38, part of the custom was to have professional mourners. But does it still seem like a strange response for the people to switch from crying to laughing so quickly in verse 40?
- In verse 40 what does Jesus then do? (removes the people who are making a commotion)
- In the Elijah story, Elijah lays down on the child three times. In what way does Jesus touch the daughter? (Holds her hand)
- Who does Jesus speak to? (the girl) And who did Elijah speak to? (to God)
- What is the response of the people there? (they are astonished)

TELL

- So as you can see, Elijah who lived about 850 years before Jesus had done a pretty amazing thing. But then, many years later, Jesus did the same thing.
- The people who first would've heard this story about Jesus would also have known the story of Elijah. Elijah was considered one of the greatest prophets to ever live.
- With that in mind, it's important to note the differences in the two stories.
- Most of those differences fall under the category of how much more confident Jesus is than Elijah.
 - Jesus calms Jairus – tells him not to be afraid whereas Elijah takes the boy and basically flees the mother.
 - Jesus lets there be witnesses. Elijah does not.
 - Elijah is praying outloud to God, whereas Jesus is speaking to the child.
 - Elijah places his whole body on the child, Jesus just holds the child's hand.
 - Elijah does this three times before a result, Jesus does it just once.
 - Elijah just has this one emergency to deal with – Jesus “accidentally” heals someone while going to heal/resuscitate the boy.
- If Elijah was one of the greatest prophets to ever live and then Jesus does the same miracle as Elijah did but with much greater ease – what message is being told to us? (that Jesus is the real deal – that Jesus is so much more advanced than Elijah and that the only explanation would be that Jesus is the Messiah)

IF THERE'S TIME ...

- There's one last thing to discuss about this story and that is the role of healer.
- The first thing we're going to do is watch a healing in a movie. The movie is called “The Day the Earth Stood Still.” Keanu Reeves' character is an alien. Let's see how he heals the boy.

WATCH “The Day the Earth Stood Still” VIDEO CLIP

ASK/TELL

- So, visually, in the movie, did the healer take away the disease or give the boy more power/life? (took away the disease)
- In the Jesus story we read today, did Jesus take away the woman's bleeding or did Jesus give the woman more power/life? (gave her more power/life – in verse 30 it says that Jesus “felt the power go out from him.”)
- The same thing with Elijah, right? What does he ask of God in verse 21? (let this child's life come into him again)
- The reason I bring this up is because biologically when we think of disease, we think of how we “caught” something. And how if that something could just be removed, then we'd be ok again.
- But the scripture points to a different understanding about healing. The Bible stories tells us that healing comes from us being made *whole* again. And in order to be made whole again we have to receive, not lose, something.
- The something that we receive is God's power, life and love.

CLOSING PRAYER