

Small Group Discussion Guide

MARK 5:21-24, 35-43

“A Picture of What’s Coming”

Based on Sunday’s
Sermon 12/14/25

Background

When Jesus docked in Capernaum after returning from the region of the Decapolis, He began ministering to a large crowd. Meanwhile, a couple living near the city had been watching over their daughter, whose condition carried her ever closer to death. Desperate days had given way to anguished nights as her symptoms grew worse. Nothing seemed to keep the young girl from sliding into the sleep of death, never again to wake.

Her father was Jairus, an official in the large synagogue in Capernaum. Jesus now lived in this substantial harbor town and had become a fixture of the community, teaching frequently in the Jewish house of meeting. Any problems the local leaders had with the rabbi from Nazareth were undoubtedly overshadowed by the economic boost they received from the thousands of visitors from all over Israel. Regardless, this particular religious and civic leader gave no thought to theology, politics, or the economy. His daughter—his only daughter, according to Luke 8:42—lay dying, and she had no hope of surviving without the kindness and healing power of Jesus.¹

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. Jairus was desperate for Jesus to save his only daughter. Can anyone share a desperate time in their life when crying out to Jesus was the only option left?

Observation

2. Read Mark 5:21-43. Because of the length of this passage, vs. 25-34 dealing with the woman will be the focus next week. What details stand out about Jairus’ approach to Jesus compared to the woman’s?
3. Describe the faith of Jairus.

¹ Charles R. Swindoll, *Mark*, Swindoll’s Living Insights New Testament Commentary (Tyndale House Publishers, 2018), 134.

4. How does the crowd function in the story—helpful, harmful, or just background noise?

Interpretation

5. Why do you think Mark places these two miracles together, almost like a “story sandwich”?
6. How does this passage show Jesus’ authority over sickness and death?
7. How does this passage point to a future time when all those who have faith in Christ will experience victory over death?
8. Read Isa 25:6–9. What are God’s promises in this passage and how might that help us wait upon the Lord?

Application

9. When have we felt like Jairus, desperate for God to act quickly, only to discover His timing is different?
10. What does this passage teach us about walking by faith when circumstances seem hopeless?