

Bible Point ▶

Jesus cares about families.

Bible Verse

“With God everything is possible” (Matthew 19:26b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- hear how Jesus healed Jairus' daughter,
 - practice ways to show love to their families,
 - teach Whiskers that Jesus cares about families, and
 - pray for their families.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus heals Jairus' daughter.

Luke 8:40-56



If you have children of your own, it's not difficult for you to imagine the distress and urgency of Jairus as he approached Jesus. Most parents would give their own lives to save one of their children. Jairus appears to have been no exception to that as he threw himself at Jesus' feet.

We can also imagine Jairus' frustration with the interruption of the woman with a bleeding problem. Jesus was on his way to help Jairus' daughter, but this woman slowed Jesus down. And think of the despair Jairus must have felt when his servant came with the announcement that his daughter had died! Jesus seized upon this announcement to encourage an extension of Jairus' faith. Likely, as Jairus' servant indicated, he may have felt there was no hope after his daughter had died. But Jesus let him know that faith could work miracles beyond what Jairus could imagine.

The fact that the little girl's parents were “overwhelmed” when Jesus raised their daughter from the dead may indicate they had little faith in what Jesus could do. But what a comfort that should be to us! Even when we have barely enough faith to keep us going, God will honor that faith. And he will hear our prayers because of his love for us.







Prayer

- Read Matthew 18:1-6.
- Why do you think God puts such a value on little children?
- Prayer: Lord, I know the little children in my class are important to you. Help me to value them as you do by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Caring Hearts Name Tags” (p. 95), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Twig Families —Break off twigs of various sizes to represent people in their families.	Construction paper, tape, crayons, twigs of various shapes and sizes	
	Option 2: Caring Families —Pretend to care for sick family members.	Toy doctor-bag, simple medical supplies	
	Option 3: Family Morning —Dress up as family members getting ready for church.	Dress-up clothes	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Practice ways they can care for people, and sing a song about caring.	Stop-and-go sign from Lesson 1, Caring Box from Lesson 6, CD player	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear the story from Luke 8:40-56, and learn that Jesus healed Jairus’ daughter.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Learn a finger play about how Jesus cares for families.		
Closing 	Cheer Up, Cousin Joey —Help Whiskers encourage his cousin Joey about his family.	CD player	
	All-Day Family Prayers —Pray for their families.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: "Caring Hearts Name Tags" (p. 95), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week's lesson into practice. Use questions such as "What did you tell your family about the man who couldn't walk?" or "How did you show Jesus' love this week?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that** ► ***Jesus cares about families.***
- Hand out the caring heart name tags children made during Lesson 6, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

teacher tips

It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Let's Get Started

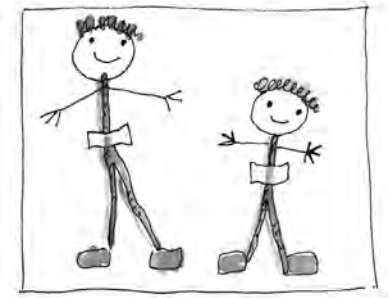
Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate between the activities to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward the point of today's lesson. Ask questions such as "How many people are in your family?" or "Who takes care of you when you're sick?"

■ Option 1: Twig Families

SUPPLIES: construction paper, tape, crayons, twigs of various shapes and sizes

Set out construction paper, tape, crayons, and twigs of various shapes and sizes. Let children break off pieces of the twigs to represent the people in their families and tape the pieces to a sheet of construction paper. Children may then draw other features with crayons. A child might use a large twig for a parent or a very small twig for a baby brother or sister. As children create their twig families, have them tell you about the people they're creating. Talk about different family members such as siblings or stepsiblings, parents or stepparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Remind children that ► ***Jesus cares about families.***



■ Option 2: Caring Families

SUPPLIES: toy doctor-bag, simple medical supplies

Provide a toy doctor-bag and simple medical supplies such as adhesive bandages, elastic bandages, and cotton or gauze strips. Have children take turns being patients and doctors. They can pretend they're caring for family members. Have children tell you ways people in their families care for each other when they're sick. Tell children that today's Bible story is about a time Jesus healed a little girl.

teacher tips

Gather twigs from a variety of trees but avoid evergreens. Pine and fir tree needles can be sharp, and the branches are often sticky. Supervise children closely so that they don't put the twigs in their mouths or poke others with them.


teacher tips

Three- and four-year-olds may be reluctant to get involved when they first come to class. Allow them time to observe, and then encourage them to try an activity they've previously enjoyed.

■ Option 3: Family Morning

SUPPLIES: dress-up clothes

Set out a variety of dress-up clothing, and have children pretend to be a family getting ready to go to church. Have them tell you what each family member will wear and what each person needs to do to get ready. Remind children that ► Jesus cares about families. Tell them that today's Bible story is about a time Jesus helped a family.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: stop-and-go sign (from Lesson 1), Caring Box (from Lesson 6), CD player



Tell children you'll hold up the stop-and-go sign to get their attention. Explain that when you show the red side, the children are to stop what they're doing and listen for your directions. When you show the green side, you'll stop talking and listen to them. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Pretended to be a doctor; got ready for church; made twig people.)

Say: **Some of you pretended to be doctors and patients, some of you pretended to be a family getting ready for church, and some of you made families of twig people. Can you tell me about some of the people in your real families?**

Let children tell you about their families. Then say: ► Jesus cares about families. **He cares about big families and small families, families that live**


teacher tips

If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.



BIBLE POINT ►

all in the same house and families that live in different houses. Jesus cares about all kinds of families.

Let's bring out our Caring Box and talk about some ways we can care for our families.

Hold up the Caring Box you prepared last week. Say: **This is the Caring Box. Inside the Caring Box, there are pictures of ways we can care for people. Let's pick out some pictures and practice caring actions with a partner.**

Form pairs, and then say: **I need one set of partners to come up and choose our first picture.**

Choose two children. Have one child pull a picture out of the Caring Box. Have the other child hold up the picture for the rest of the class to see. Say: **Pretend your partner is someone in your family. Show me how you would** [caring action shown in picture].

Have all the children demonstrate how they'd practice the caring action in the picture; then hold up the red sign to regain their attention.

Collect the picture, and then say: **Let's show that we've practiced the actions in this picture by stamping it with our *Jesus cares stamp*.**

Choose a new pair of children to stamp the picture. Have them come up, stamp it, and then return to their place. Then choose another pair, and have them select a new picture from the Caring Box.

Have all the children practice the action in the second picture; then hold up the red sign to regain their attention. Collect the picture, and choose another pair to come up and stamp it. Then return all pictures to the box.

Say: **Good job practicing caring actions with your partners. You can practice those actions at home with your families this week. ▶ *Jesus cares about families*, and he wants us to care for our families, too. Let's sing the song we learned last week to help us remember to do that.**

Lead children in singing "God Cares" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 11) with the CD to the tune of "Looby Loo."



If children choose a stamped picture, set it aside and ask them to pick another picture. The "Caring Actions" handouts contain eight pictures—two for each lesson in Module 2.



**Give all your cares to God.
Give God your worries, too.
Give all your cares to God.
God cares what happens to you.**

(Repeat 2x.)

After you sing the song, say: **Now let's bring out our Bible and find out how Jesus cared for a family by healing a little girl.**

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3 & 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today. Remember that everyone will get a chance to hold the Bible one week.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” (track 3) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



I’m so glad for the Bible.	Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.	Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
I’m so glad for God’s book today.	Let me hear ’bout God’s love for me.
I’m so glad for the Bible.	Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’—	Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Keep me learnin’ all about his way.	Let’s shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat the first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who’s holding the Bible to bring it to you. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Stamp the child’s hand with the *Jesus cares stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children’s hands. Return the *Jesus cares stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I’m thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I’m thankful for everyone in our class today. Each of you is a special part of our class! Let’s thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad We’re Together” (track 4) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you sing the second verse.



I’m so glad we’re together:	Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’.	Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
I’m so glad we’re all here today.	Thank you for everyone who’s here.
I’m so glad we’re together:	Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’—	Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Prayin’ for each other every day.	Thankful for our friends both far and near.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Open the Bible to Luke 8, and show it to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible, God’s special book. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Point to the picture of the paralyzed man from last week’s lesson.

Ask: • **Who can tell me something about the story we heard last week?** (A man couldn’t walk; the man’s friends took him to Jesus; they lowered a man through a roof; Jesus made the man better.)

Say: **That’s right. Last week we learned how Jesus helped a man who couldn’t walk. Today we’ll hear about a girl who couldn’t walk—but that’s because she was very, very sick.** Point out the picture of Jairus’ daughter.

Say: **Show me how you feel when you’re sick.** Let children respond. Then ask:

• **When you’re sick, who takes care of you?** (My mom; my dad; my baby sitter.)

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



• **What does that person do to make you feel better?** (Reads me a book; gives me medicine; lies down with me.)

Say: **God gives us families to help take care of us. Our Bible story is about a man named Jairus and his family. The little girl in the picture is his daughter. Jairus' daughter was very sick, and no one could make her feel better. Jairus was really worried about his little girl. But he heard that ► Jesus cares about families. So he went to find Jesus and see if Jesus could make his little girl well. Let's walk our fingers along the streets pictured on our *Learning Mat* and pretend we're looking for Jesus.**

Let children walk their fingers around the mat; then continue: **When Jairus found Jesus, he was so excited. He told Jesus about his little girl and asked if Jesus would come to his house and help her feel better. Jesus said he'd come!**

Let's pretend we're going with Jesus to Jairus' house.

Stand up and lead children in walking around the room. Then stop them and say: **We're almost there. I think I see some people coming. They're coming from Jairus' house. What are they saying? Oh no! They're saying that Jairus' little girl has died! They're saying Jesus doesn't need to come. There's nothing he can do.**

Raise your hand if you think Jesus turned around and went away. Pause. **Raise your hand if you think Jesus went to Jairus' house anyway.** Pause. **Let's walk back to our *Learning Mat* and sit down to find out what Jesus did.**

Have children sit down. Say: ► Jesus cares about families. Jesus told Jairus to keep believing in him. He sent all the people out of the house that were saying the girl had died. "She isn't dead," Jesus told them, "she is only asleep."

Jesus told Jairus and his wife to come with him to their little girl's room. Jesus took the girl's hand, and said, "Get up, my child!" And right away, she did! Jesus told them to get her something to eat.

Look at the picture on our *Learning Mat* again.

Ask: • **How do you think Jairus and his wife are feeling in this picture?** (Happy; excited; glad Jesus came over.)

Say: **Jairus was so glad that he had believed Jesus. ► Jesus cares about families. Let's say that together. Lie down and say it softly. Pretend you're the little girl who just woke up.** Pause. **Now stand up and say it loudly. Pretend you're Jairus telling all his friends about what Jesus did for his little girl.** Pause.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Be sure to emphasize to children that the story comes from the Bible, God's Word.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



Say: **Jesus showed he cared about the girl by making her well. Jesus cares about you, too, and wants to be your very best friend. Let's tell Jesus we're glad he's our friend.**

Let each child touch one of the pictures of Jesus on the *Learning Mat*. Several children may touch the same picture.

Pray: **Dear Jesus, as we touch these pictures of you, we want to thank you that you touch our lives with your love. Help us to touch others with your love, too. Amen.**



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **Jesus cared about Jairus and his family, and ► he cares about our families, too. Let's learn a finger play to help us remember that.**

Put the *Learning Mat* away.

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none

Lead children in the following finger play. Demonstrate it once to show them how to do the actions, and then have them do it with you. Repeat it several times, and have children take turns filling in names of family members each time.

Here's our house (*lace fingers together inside folded hands*)

With the roof so tall. (*Point index fingers together.*)

Inside are people (*open hands and wiggle laced fingers*),

Big and small.

There's [name] **and** [name]

And [name], **you see.** (*Children fill in names of family members.*)

Jesus loves

My fam-i-ly. (*Cross hands over heart and rock back and forth.*)



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: ► **Jesus cares about families. He cares about the families in our church and town and about families all around the world. Let's find out what's happening in Whiskers' family.**

Closing

■ Cheer Up, Cousin Joey

SUPPLIES: CD player



Gather the children in a circle on the floor. Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. If you have a toy telephone in your classroom, have Whiskers hang up the phone as you begin the script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.





Whiskers: *(Pacing)* Oh my. Oh dear. Oh my.

Teacher: What's wrong, Whiskers?

Whiskers: I'm worried about my cousin Joey.

Teacher: What's the matter with your cousin Joey? Is he sick?

Whiskers: *(Shaking head)* No. He keeps calling me on the telephone. Every time he calls, he starts to cry. He wants me to help him, but I don't know how.

Teacher: Why don't you tell us what's wrong with your cousin Joey? Maybe we can help you think of a way to help him.

Whiskers: It's his daddy. Cousin Joey says his daddy is sick and can't go to work. He's really worried about his daddy. He doesn't know what to do, and I don't know what to do either.

Teacher: I'm sure that's hard for Joey. We've been learning something today that might help him. We're learning how ► *Jesus cares about families.* Children, let's tell Whiskers how Jesus helped the family in our Bible story.

(Help children tell Whiskers about how Jesus went to Jairus' house and healed his daughter.)

Whiskers: That's a great story, but how will it help my cousin Joey?

Teacher: Well, Whiskers, Jesus cares about all kinds of families. He cares about the families of all your friends in this class, he cares about your family, and he cares about Joey's family. Jesus wants us to care about families, too. You can show Joey that you care by praying for his family.

Whiskers: But what should I say?

Teacher: Just tell Jesus about your cousin Joey and his daddy, and ask him to take care of their family. Can you do that?

Whiskers: *(Nodding)* Yes, I think so. You know, Joey likes it when I tell him stories about Jesus. I'll tell him that story you told me about how Jesus helped Jairus and his family. I think that will help him feel better, too.

Teacher: You might also want to encourage Joey by teaching him our Bible verse from Matthew 19:26, ► "With God everything is possible." Children, let's sing that verse as a song to help Whiskers remember it.

(Lead children in singing "Everything Is Possible" (Matthew 19:26b) (track 6) with the CD to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush.")



SING

**With God everything is possible,
Possible,
Possible.
With God everything is possible—
The Bible tells us so.**

(Repeat.)

Whiskers: Thanks! I'll be sure and tell this verse to Joey.

Teacher: That's great, Whiskers. I'm sure you'll encourage him. When you come back next week, you can tell us how Joey is doing.

Whiskers: I will. Thanks, friends. I've got to go call Joey now. Goodbye.

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■ All-Day Family Prayers

SUPPLIES: none

Say: **Whiskers is going to pray for his cousin Joey's family. Let's pray for our families right now. We're going to pray a special prayer with actions. We'll do an action, and then after we do it, we'll say, "God, please be with our families." Let's try that together.**

Lead children in repeating the phrase. Then continue: **You'll need to look and listen carefully to find out what action you'll do. We'll start by lying on the floor.**

Have children lie down; then go through the following prayer. Each time you complete an action, lead children in saying, "God, please be with our families."

When we get up in the morning (*sit up*),
When we go to work or school or play (*stand up, and walk out the door*),
When we come home (*walk back in the room*),
When we eat our meals together (*sit down at or around a table*),
When we go to bed at night (*lie down on the floor again*)—
Wherever we go, whatever we do (*sit up, and form a circle*)—
God, please be with our families.



Close by repeating the Bible Point together: ► ***Jesus cares about families.***

Collect the name tags for next week's use, and remind children to take home any crafts they made today.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Family Mother-May-I

Play a game of Mother-May-I. Pick a child to be the leader, and have that child give other children simple instructions, such as “Take three baby steps” or “Take one jump forward.” With each instruction, children must ask, “Mother, may I?” Repeat the game with a new leader each time. Encourage each new leader to be a different family member, so that children must ask, “Brother, may I?” or “Grandma, may I?” As children choose new family members, remind them that ► Jesus cares about families.

Make to Take: Family Frames



Before class, write “Jesus cares about [name]’s family” at the top of a paper plate for each student. Fill in the names of your regular students, and be sure to bring a few extra plates for visitors. Leave room below the words for children to add pictures of their families.

Have children glue macaroni noodles or other pasta shapes around the rim of their plates. (Be sure children don’t put the pasta into their mouths.) Encourage each child to draw a family picture or add a photo at home. As children work, have them tell you about their families. Remind them that ► Jesus cares about families.

Treat to Eat: Marshmallow People



Help children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink.

Set out large and small marshmallows and containers of frosting. Let children use the marshmallows and frosting to create models of their families. They can use the big marshmallows as bodies and “glue” on small marshmallow heads with frosting. When children have finished assembling their marshmallow people, give them pretzel sticks to make arms and legs. As children work, remind them that Jesus cares about all different kinds of families.



Story Picture: Jesus Heals Jairus' Daughter

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out glue sticks, crayons, and scraps of soft fabric, such as felt or flannel. Have each child color the picture and glue the fabric scraps to the girl’s blanket. As children work, review the details of today’s Bible story. Remind them that ► Jesus cares about families.

Today i learned..

Jesus cares about families.

Help me learn this:

“With God everything is possible”
(Matthew 19:26b).

Ask me:

- How did Jesus take care of Jairus’ family?
- What can you do to show Jesus’ love to someone in our family?
- How can our family tell other families that Jesus cares?

Family Fun

- Make or purchase sugar-cookie dough. Then gather your family together, and create a batch of family cookies. Roll out the dough, and help children make heads, bodies, arms, and legs. Create at least one cookie to represent each person in your family. As you eat the cookies, talk about ways Jesus has cared for each person.
- Shower each family member with Jesus’ love this week. You can make each person breakfast, give each person flowers, or join in each person’s favorite activities.

Lesson 7
Today your child learned that **JESUS CARES ABOUT FAMILIES.** Children heard how Jesus healed Jairus’ daughter. They talked about ways they can show love to their families.



**Jesus Heals
Jairus’ Daughter**
(Luke 8:40-56)