



Mark 5:35-43 (NIV)

³⁵ While Jesus was still speaking, some people came

from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

³⁶ Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “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 leader, 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 began to walk 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.

Opening

- 1. Pray:** God of new beginnings, in the time between the time, of now but not yet, between conception and completion, of promises half formed, with dreams still emerging: help us to let go of all that holds us bound. Enable us to hold firmly to that which beckons us toward your love. Give us wisdom and patience for the journey into the new life of your creating. Amen.
- 2. Share:** Share about a fictional character who underwent a transformative journey. What stands out to you about the process or the changes in their life?

Dive Into the Text

1. Jesus only lets Peter, James, and John follow him to Jairus' house. What purpose could he have had for this?
2. In a similar fashion, Jesus was very specific about who he allowed inside to witness the miracle of raising the child from the dead. He then told those witnesses not to say anything about what had happened. Put yourself in the place of the parents - do you think this was a realistic request? Why does Jesus want this miracle to be kept hidden?
3. Jesus told the mourners that the child was just sleeping and they laughed at him. Given the context of the story and Jesus' commandment to the parents and disciples not to reveal what had happened, how do you think the mourners responded when they found out that the child was alive? If you were a mourner, would you have believed that the child was sleeping?

Metamorphosis

“Jesus doesn’t want us to live in survival mode where our ambition is just ‘fine.’ Jesus wants us to thrive. So when I’m confronted with people who are worried or anxious, I tell them: ‘Listen, I know it’s hard right now, and I’ll help you as much as I can. But I also have faith in you, and I know you’ve got this. And it’s not going to be just fine. It’s going to be great!’

That’s what I imagine Jesus is really trying to communicate to us when he says, ‘just keep believing.’ Because then we find out that Jesus brings Jairus’ daughter back to life and it’s not just fine... it is glorious!

So Jesus is asking Jairus, and asking us - even when faced with death, to have hope and faith.”

“Metamorphosis.” Rev. Cricket Denton. (Haddonfield, NJ: Haddonfield United Methodist Church, January 21, 2024).



Pastor Cricket’s butterfly pin from Dominican Republic.

Go Deeper

1. Talk about an instance from your life when you shared your stress or anxiety with someone, and their response was to tell you not to worry. Was that response helpful for you? What are other ways the people in your life have responded that have been helpful?
2. What does it look like to have faith in other people? How does it make you feel knowing that your faith in someone might give them the hope that they need to keep moving forward?
3. In our culture and society, there is a pressure not to display anything that could be considered a weakness. Describe an instance where you told someone you were "fine" but really weren't. What made you respond that way?

Close in Prayer

Close your time together in prayer.