

Story-Meal for
Twelve Years

“Twelve-Year Salad” – Salad with 12 items in it.

“Sad-Story Tenderloin” – Pork Tenderloin w/gravy
– the woman was “unclean” – just like pork

“Little Girl's Favorite” optional Chicken nuggets
– which is a favorite with 12 year old girls

“Two-Miracle Potatoes” Twice baked Potato – Two Miracles

“Get-Up Corn” –most likely used when Jesus said
“give her something to eat”

“Happy-Ending Dessert” Cookies & Ice Cream
– the sadness in both lives is gone.

A storyteller host (hostess) is assigned to each table. This person will tell (or read) the story and lead the activities. In the middle of the table is a big cup with strips of paper (discussion questions) sticking out. This will be used later during the meal.

The opening prayer will be together.

Instructions for the storyteller:

1. Introduce yourself, and have each person introduce themselves. Ask them to limit their introduction to only their name and where they are from. Normally they could say more, but the activities are about to start, and there is only enough time for name and location.
2. The printed menu explains how all the food will represent part of the story.

Tell (or read) section one of the story.

As you wait to go to the buffet table

– and after you get back and other are still going to the buffet table:

- * Have several people tell what they remember about being a pre-teen.
- * If someone at your table is touched on the shoulder, they are to say, “Someone touched me.” Others at the table are to respond, “Of course someone touched you. There is a big crowd here” (or something like that).

On the way to the buffet table:

- * When your table is called to go get your food, tell the people at your table to follow you. Take the long way around to get to the buffet. This illustrates Jesus going with Jairus, and a large crowd pressed around him.
- * **Tell each person at your table to touch one person on the shoulder “during the journey”.**
- * **Have them look around the room and find a 12-year-old girl and waive at her.**
- * As you approach the table, someone is going to say to you, “There is no need to keep going. You might as well go back” (or something like that). You encourage your group to keep going to the buffet table.

After everyone has been served, there will be a 3-minute drama from the podium.

Tell (or read) section two of the story.

3. During the meal, have various people pull out a discussion question out of the jar located in the middle of table. This is for the entire table to discuss. Try to keep the discussion moving.
 - * Name something you have done over a 12-year period of time.
 - * Tell about a lingering illness or medical condition.
 - * Discuss the fact that the woman was considered “unclean,” and the girl was dieing at no fault of their own.
 - * How did these people maintain “hope” for being healed?
 - * How do you relate to a friend who has a dieing loved one?
 - * Discuss the difficult of being around someone who has a condition, a handicap, a sickness, etc.
4. A person will announce the end of this section.

Tell (or read) section three of the story.

5. Once you are done, a short story will be told from the platform
6. Dessert will be served.
7. **Give illustrations of when “God has given new life to a bad situation.”**
—or— Tell of a time when you were told to give up and you persevered.

Section One

A great crowd was waiting when Jesus and his disciples arrived back on the Jewish side of the lake. He started to teach them, but Jairus — a synagogue official — interrupted by falling down before him.

He said, “My daughter is only twelve years old, and yet she is on her bed about to die. Please, I beg you. Come put your hand on her and heal her.” So Jesus followed him. His disciples also came along. As they walked, a large crowd pressed in around Jesus.

Section Two

A woman saw that he was going to pass by. She had been suffering for twelve years with a bleeding disorder. Doctors had tried everything until her money ran out, but she only grew worse. She thought to herself, “If I could get close enough, and touch the edge of his clothes, I would be healed. No one would need to know what I had done.”

She moved in as Jesus passed by, and reached out and touched him. Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel that she was healed. Jesus could feel the power go out from him, so he turned and said, “Who touched me?”

Peter looked around and said, “Lord, what do you mean ‘who touched me’? Look at the crowd around you. They are all pressing against you.”

Jesus ignored Peter’s comments and looked around for the person who touched him. The woman realized she could not hide what she had done, so she came forward trembling. Falling down at his feet, she confessed all she had done, and how she was healed when she touched the edge of his clothes.

Jesus smiled at her and said, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace. You are now free from this illness.”

Section Three

While he was still talking with the woman, someone came up and told Jairus, “You don’t need to bother the Master any more. Your daughter is dead.”

Jesus heard this, and said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just believe in me. “

When they got to the house they saw that the mourners had already come. They were playing loudly on their flutes while others were weeping and wailing.

Jesus said, “Stop crying and carrying on. The girl is only asleep.”

They began to laugh at him because they knew she was dead.

So he sent them all outside.

Jesus did not let anyone go in except the girl’s parents and three of his disciples — Peter, James, and John. Once inside, He went in to where the girl was lying, and took her hand and said, “Child, get up.”

The spirit of the girl returned to her, and she opened her eyes. She then obeyed, got up and walked around. The parents watched in astonishment, but Jesus told them to give her something to eat. He then told them not to start telling everyone about what happened. Still, news of this spread throughout the whole area.

3-Minute Drama

Two separate monologues — Jairus and the woman with the issue of blood. Both repeat together the first and last phrase of each section. The following phrases are: “Twelve Years” “I had to do something.” “And then He stopped” “I am going to tell everyone.” These are marked in bold.

Jairus: “**Twelve Years!**” She was only twelve years old. Dads are suppose to be proud of their sons, but ... well ... she’s my daddy’s girl. She has always been so healthy and full of life – and smart too! She was just becoming a young lady. Then she got sick. She was only “**Twelve Years.**”

Woman: “**Twelve Years!**” Imagine being sick for twelve years. Twelve years of being unclean because of all the blood. Twelve years of spending money on doctors and getting no help. Twelve years of being called a sinner as if God were judging me for something. (quietly) ... Twelve years of thinking ... they were right. It’s been a long “**Twelve Years.**”

Jairus: “**Twelve Years!**” She was too young to come down with a deadly disease. I had to do something, but what? Then I heard about Jesus and some of the people he healed. I know I am an overseer of the synagogue, and ... well ... our leaders have not really given their approval on his ministry. But “**I had to do something.**”

Woman: “**I had to do something!**” All of those years of weakness, guilt, shame, and loneliness. I totally ran out of options. I just wanted to die! Then I heard about Jesus – the miracles he performed ... the people he healed. Still ... I knew I wouldn’t be allowed to get close to him. If he touched me ... or I touched him, he would be unclean. Getting his help was impossible, but “**I had to do something.**”

Jairus: “**I had to do something!**” I went to him and fell down at his feet. “My daughter is only twelve years old, and yet she is on her bed about to die. Please, I beg you. Come put your hand on her and heal her.” And he said yes. Did you hear me? He said Yes! He came with me to heal my daughter. Oh, don’t think badly of my begging like that – for someone in my position. ... “**I had to do something!**”

Woman: “**I had to do something!**” And I had to do it quick! Word came that he was walking right down my street. The excitement was high and the crowd grew large. This was my opportunity – if there ever was one. Without thinking, I went out into the street and into the crowd. No one seemed to notice me – and that was all right with me. (talk faster) I knew I couldn’t stop him and ask for healing. He would just turn away like all the other religious leaders. I was unclean. (talk faster) What was I to do? Oh no, there he is. (talk with worry in voice) What should I do? He passed me and I did nothing. He went right by me and I said nothing. ...
I know! I will reach out and touch the hem of his cloak. Surely that would heal me – maybe. So I reached out ... touched his cloak. ... And (excitement) I was healed. It happened instantly. (laughing) It was a miracle! “**And then He stopped!**”

Jairus: “**And then He stopped!**” I can’t believe he stopped. My daughter was about to die, and he stopped. And for the silliest reason – someone touched him. This is not a time to be hypersensitive about someone bumping in to you. After all, we’re in the middle of a crowd. And then it became obvious what the issue was. He healed some woman. Not as if she couldn’t wait until tomorrow. My daughter is dying, and he stood there visiting with that woman. “**It’s hard to believe.**”

Woman: “It’s hard to believe!” He took away my shame. He took away disease. I am no longer unclean. I can start living again. Oh Praise the Lord! “**It is hard to believe.**”

Jairus: “**It’s hard to believe!**” We came so close (looking down). ... As we stood there, news came. My daughter ... my precious daughter ... died. ... But oh, it doesn’t end there. Jesus came to my house anyway. (growing excitement) He sent away the mourners. He took me, my wife, and three of his disciples. We went into the room where she laid. He held my daughter’s hand, and simply spoke to her. I will never forget those three words. “Child, get

up.” ... and she did! I’m telling you, she did. She got up and walked around. Jesus said not to tell anyone, but **“I am going to tell everyone.”**

Woman at the same time: **“I am going to tell everyone.”**

Jairus and woman look at one another and repeat to each other: **“I am going to tell everyone.”**