

# PROPER 8

Sunday between 26 June and 2 July inclusive

## Thought for the day

God's power can reach even into death and draw out life.

## Readings

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 or  
Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24  
Psalm 130 or Psalm 30 or Lamentations 3:23-33  
2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
Mark 5:21-43  
(Lamentations 3:23-33 may be read as the first reading in place of the Wisdom passage.)

## Aim

To explore the implications of this healing from death.

## Starter

Use a stopwatch and set someone off talking for one minute on a particular subject. They can be interrupted and challenged for repetitions or hesitations, after which the challenger continues the talk. Whoever is talking at time-up is the winner.

## Teaching

Putting the reading in context, look first at 1 Samuel 1, and talk a little together about how sad it is when someone we know and love dies, and how we miss seeing them. You may also like to look at the passage from Lamentations.  
Now make a point of moving from the Old to the New Testament, and find Mark's Gospel. Read this with different voices taking the various parts. Are they surprised at Jesus actually raising the dead? What does this show his followers? Why do they think only a few were allowed to be present?

Also look at the healing which takes place on the way to Jairus' house. How do they think Jairus might have been feeling while Jesus took time to talk to the woman? How do they cope with urgent interruptions? What if the interruption was the reason the little girl was already dead – might this be why Jesus was prepared to bring her back from the dead? Finally look at what Mark shows us about faith. Where does faith and believing come up in the two healings of today's Gospel? What does Jesus say about it?

## Praying

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;  
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace. No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him,  
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

(Taken from the song *Be still, for the presence* by David J. Evans, © 1986 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)

## Activities

There is a role-play on the sheet to help them see today's Gospel from various different standpoints, and there is space for them to record what this account reveals of the nature of Jesus and his mission.

## Discussion starters

1. The situation in the Gospel of urgent business being interrupted by another crisis is all too familiar! What can we learn from Jesus' way of dealing with it?
2. Paul talks of us giving generously within our terms not just of money but time, commitment and even faith and trust?

## Notes