

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Late Elementary · Parent Edition

For the parent: Read each part aloud and work through the questions together. Your answers are printed in blue italics, so no preparation is needed. Your child uses the Student Edition.

Step 1 Understand the Collect

A collect is a short prayer the pastor prays for the whole church. Here is today's collect:

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Words to know. *Stir up:* wake up and get moving. *Wills:* what we want and choose. *Plenteously:* in great amounts. *Fruit of good works:* the good things we do because we believe. *Rewarded:* given a gift. *Discharge of blood* (in the Gospel): an illness that made her bleed. *Fringe:* the edge or tassels of a garment.

1. We ask the Lord to _____ up the wills of His people.

Answer: Stir.

2. The good works of God's people are called _____.

Answer: Fruit.

3. God will reward His people _____.

Answer: Plenteously.

Step 2 Understand the Gospel

Matthew 9:18-26

18 While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

19 And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. **20** And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, **21** for she said to herself, "If I only touch his garment, I will be made well." **22** Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And instantly the woman was made well.

23 And when Jesus came to the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, **24** he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. **25** But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. **26** And the report of this went through all that district.

1. What had happened to the ruler's daughter?

Answer: She had just died (verse 18).

2. How long had the woman been sick?

Answer: Twelve years (verse 20).

3. What did the woman touch?

Answer: The fringe of Jesus' garment (verse 20).

4. What did Jesus say about the girl, and what did the crowd do?

Answer: That she was "not dead but sleeping," and they laughed at Him (verse 24).

Step 3 Find the Collect in the Gospel

Say to your child: Our prayer asks God to stir up His people to do good works, and it says God will reward them richly. In the Gospel, a father and a sick woman come to Jesus, and He gives them far more than they could ask. Let's find our prayer in the story.

1. The collect asks God to *stir up* our wills. What did the ruler do when his daughter died?

Answer: He came to Jesus, knelt, and asked Him to come and lay His hand on her (verse 18).

2. The collect says God rewards *plenteously*. What did Jesus give the woman who touched His garment?

Answer: She was made well at once, and He called her "daughter" (verse 22).

3. What did Jesus give the ruler?

Answer: His daughter back. Jesus took her by the hand, and she got up (verse 25).

Parent note. The woman and the ruler did not earn anything. Their faith simply came to Jesus, and He gave richly. God's rewards are always gifts of grace. Our good works are fruit that grows from faith, and God delights to reward what He Himself has worked in us.

Step 4 The Small Catechism

The Seventh Petition. But deliver us from evil. **What does this mean?** We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

1. What do we ask for in the Seventh Petition?

Answer: That God would rescue us from every evil, and when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end.

2. Jesus said the dead girl was "sleeping." What does the Seventh Petition say God will do when our last hour comes?

Answer: Graciously take us to Himself in heaven.

Step 5 Wrap It All Up

Pray today's collect together one more time. Then ask:

1. What does Jesus do for you against sin and death?

Answer: He forgives my sins and sets me free. When I die, He will take me to Himself, and on the Last Day He will wake me as He woke the girl.