

JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON

Luke 7



Jesus, His disciples, and a large crowd were traveling to a town called Nain. As Jesus was coming near the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. This man was his mother's only son, and she was a widow, which meant her husband was dead. A large crowd from the city was also with the woman.

When Jesus saw her, He had compassion on her. He said, "Don't cry." Then He came up and touched the coffin carrying the young man's body. The people carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak! Jesus brought the man back to his mother. Everyone was amazed, and they glorified God. They said, "A great Prophet has come to us!" and "God has visited His people."

Word about Jesus and this miracle spread throughout Judea and the land.

Christ Connection: Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection.



1 WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

•**Have you ever seen something so exciting or amazing that you couldn't help but tell someone about it? What did you see?**

2 SESSION STARTER

☐ OPTION 1: NEW LIFE

Prior to the session, write difficulties like fear, suffering, sorrow, worry, and others on individual index cards. Form groups of two or three kids. Distribute a card to each group. Challenge kids to read the card and then work together to find a verse in the Bible by using a concordance that tells us what Jesus does for those who are facing that specific hardship. As kids work together, walk around the room and assist when needed. After each group has found a verse or verses about their topic, go around the room and invite them to share the verse they found with the rest of the group.

SAY “ In today's story, we will see how **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE.** God promises that He will eventually use everything in a Christian's life for good—even things that are bad or unpleasant in the moment. ”

☐ OPTION 2: TEAMWORK FLIP



Form kids into two teams and distribute a large blanket or sheet to each team. Lead the kids to stand on their team's blanket. Challenge kids to work together to flip the blanket over without any team members touching the ground. There are lots of different approaches they may take. If a player touches the ground, the team must start over. The first team to fully flip the blanket over, wins.

SAY “ At first, it probably seemed impossible to flip the blanket over while you were all standing on it. Today Jesus did something that seemed impossible to those around Him. **JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE.** Jesus saw the man being carried away after he had died. Jesus had compassion on the man's family and raised him from the dead. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about when Jesus raised a widow's son to life. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from Luke 7.

•What does this story teach us about God?

Jesus has the power to raise the dead and give new life because He is the Son of God.

When we see Jesus' work in our lives and in the lives of others, we should praise God, just like the crowd did in today's story. We should also go tell others about Jesus so they can experience His power in their lives.

•How did the people who saw this miracle respond?

The people were amazed at what they saw. Jesus had just raised a dead man to life! This miracle caused the people to praise God and tell other people what Jesus had done.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

2 MISSIONS MOMENT

Share that the mission of Redemption Church in Utah is to start new churches throughout Utah and in some of the toughest places, train people so they can be missions leaders, pastors, and church planters, and help the community live transformed lives as they become followers of Jesus. Over the last 10 years, Redemption Church has supported and helped launch many new churches that they continue to work with.

Northern Utah is the most unreached region of the United States. Only 2 percent of the people who live there are Christians. Some areas have less than 1 percent of people who claim to be followers of Jesus. Redemption Church believes more people in this area need to hear about the good news of Jesus.

Redemption Church wants to partner with other churches who would like to start new churches or offer support to help more people learn the good news about Jesus. Pray for Redemption Church and its leaders as they tell people in Utah about Jesus.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Have you experienced God working in your life? If you would like to know more about trusting Jesus as your Savior and the new life He gives, please talk to your parents or one of the church leaders.

4 PRAY

Thank You, God, for having the power to bring the dead to life and give believers new life in You. Help us share this good news with others so that they can trust You as Savior. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- Are most of the stories in the Bible true?
- How does Jesus' power show that He is God?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Luke 7. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 7:16. Remind preteens that the people who saw the young man raised from the dead realized that only God could do what Jesus did. The people realized Jesus' power and even said that God had visited His people. Jesus is the long-promised Messiah the prophets had been speaking of for hundreds of years. The Bible tells us that we are all dead in our sins, but Jesus has the power to raise us and give us new life in Him when we repent of our sins and trust in Him. Choose another volunteer to read aloud Luke 7:16 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What does today's story show us about who Jesus is?

Jesus is full of love and compassion for people, especially those who are grieving. When He saw the widow who had lost her only son, He had compassion on her and cared for her. God showed His love and care for us by sending Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves and give us new life. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Romans 5:8.)

2. How can a person experience new life in Jesus?

To experience the new life Jesus offers, we must turn away from our sin and trust Him as our Savior and Lord. The people in today's story were amazed when they saw Jesus raise the young man from the dead, but only a few trusted that Jesus is the Messiah, God's Son. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:10-12.)

3. What does this miracle show us about God's power?

God alone has the power to raise the dead, both physically and spiritually. Throughout Jesus' earthly ministry, we see several examples of Jesus raising those who were physically dead and spiritually dead. On the cross and through the empty tomb, we see Jesus conquer sin and death once and for all, allowing all who trust in Him to have victory over the power of sin and death. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

What is prayer?

Prayer is talking with God to praise Him, ask Him for help, and confess our sins.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Jeremiah 29:12-13. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Give each kid a sheet of paper. Place scissors, pencils, and markers in the center of each table. Challenge kids to write out the first verse (Jeremiah 29:12) of the key passage on their papers, filling up the whole paper and leaving space between each word. Next, direct them to use a pencil to draw squiggly lines between each word, creating puzzle pieces, and cut them out. Then, encourage kids to switch puzzles with someone else at their table, and put their puzzle together. Give each kid a ziplock bag to take their puzzle home in.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His love and care for us and giving new life to those who trust Him as Savior.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

GOOD NEWS

Form kids into groups of two or three and distribute paper and pencils to each group. Challenge kids to work together to write a news broadcast report on the good news of today's story. Encourage each group to choose one or two kids to be the news reporters and another kid or kids to be witnesses that the reporter interviews. Consider showing an example of a news broadcast for kids to get an idea of what they can include. Allow kids to work in their groups for several minutes. Then, invite each group to come to the front and do their news broadcast.

JESUS RAISED THE WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE. Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We must share this good news with others, so that they can experience the joy of new life in Him.