

JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

John 11



Jesus had good friends named Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. One day, Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message saying, “Lazarus, who You love, is very sick.”

When Jesus heard this news, He said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Then Jesus stayed where He was for two more days.

Then Jesus told His disciples, “Let’s go to Judea, where Lazarus lives.” The disciples were nervous to travel to Judea because people lived there who wanted to kill Jesus. However, one of the disciples named Thomas encouraged the other disciples to follow Jesus.

When Jesus arrived in Judea, Lazarus had been in a tomb for four days. Martha came to Jesus and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I believe You are the Son of God.”

Jesus said, “Your brother will live again.”

Martha said, “I know he will live again at the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after they die. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never really die.”

Mary came and cried at Jesus’ feet. Jesus was deeply moved and wept with His friends. He loved Lazarus and His friends very much.

Then Jesus went to the tomb. He told the people to roll away the stone covering the entrance. Martha was worried because Lazarus had been dead for several days and the tomb would smell.

Jesus prayed to God. Then He shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

Lazarus walked out of the tomb! He was wrapped in cloth, but he was alive!

Everyone was amazed. They saw that Jesus has power over death.

Christ Connection: By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed He is the Messiah, the Son of God, who gives eternal life. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever.



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.

- What's something you've had to wait for?
- How does waiting make you feel?

2 SESSION STARTER

☐ OPTION 1: WRAP UP



Form kids into two teams and invite them to spread out around the room. Distribute several rolls of toilet paper to each team. Direct each team to select one kid to be Lazarus. Set a timer for 30 seconds. When you say, Go!, challenge kids to wrap their team's Lazarus in paper from head to toe, carefully avoiding covering their face. When time is up, instruct kids to stop wrapping. The team who managed to wrap their Lazarus the most, wins. Repeat as time allows with another Lazarus.

SAY “ Today we will learn the true story of Jesus raising His friend Lazarus from the dead. **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.** ”

☐ OPTION 2: LAZARUS STICK FIGURES

Before this activity, cut several wooden craft sticks in half. Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute one whole craft stick and four halves to each kid. Place glue, markers, scissors, yarn, and crayons in the center of each table. Direct kids to use the glue to secure the arms and legs to the wooden craft stick. Then, encourage them to use crayons and markers to give Lazarus a face and clothes. Once kids have finished coloring, challenge them to cut a long piece of white yarn and wrap the yarn around Lazarus. Instruct kids to secure the yarn with glue when they begin wrapping and when they finish wrapping. Encourage kids to take their Lazarus stick figures home and share the story they hear today with a friend or family member.

SAY “ Today we will study the true story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.** ”



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 Lazarus. 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 John 11.**•What does this story teach us about God?**

BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever.

•When Jesus received the message about Lazarus being sick, how did He respond?

Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness would not end in death, but that God would be glorified through Lazarus' sickness. The Bible tells us that Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, but Jesus did not immediately go to them. He waited two more days before going to Judea.

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

In 2020, Deaf people numbered around 70 million people around the world. Most Deaf people do not have the Bible in their sign language. A group called Deaf Pathway Global is translating Bible stories into sign languages around the world. Deaf people who know and love Jesus are making these translations so other Deaf people can understand the Bible in their own language.

A little over 30 years ago, a woman named Betty Stirrman noticed that many Deaf people in Tennessee had no church of their own. This made her and her church, Brentwood Baptist Church, sad. In 1984, Betty started interpreting Brentwood's worship services in sign language. By 1986, the church started a Deaf Sunday School class, and in 1995, the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church began. Now Betty's vision for helping the Deaf know about Jesus reaches around the world through a partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB) and the Bible translation work of Deaf Pathway Global.

So far, Deaf translators have translated Bible stories into 13 sign languages, including Chinese, Czech, English, Polish, and Thai. The group's goal is to translate at least 300 Bible stories in every sign language. Encourage kids to thank God for Deaf Pathway Global which is helping tell Deaf people who do not know about Jesus and assisting Deaf Christians in telling their Deaf friends about Him.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Today we saw that Jesus is the Messiah who offers life forever with Him. If you would like to learn more about trusting Jesus as your Savior and having new life in Him, please talk to a parent or a church leader.

4 PRAY

Lord, thank You for sending Jesus as the Messiah. We are grateful that through Him we can have our sins forgiven and can have new life with You forever. Help us share this good news with other people. 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. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.

				
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

- **Why does God let Christians suffer?**
- **How can you remember to trust God, even when it's difficult?**

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to John 11. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 11:25-26.

Explain that John is the only Gospel writer to record the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. John, as one of Jesus' disciples, would have seen this miracle with his own eyes. Choose another volunteer to read aloud John 11:25-26 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. What can the story of Jesus raising Lazarus teach us about waiting for God's timing?

We may not always understand God's timing or why we must wait for certain things, but we can know that God's timing is best. Jesus waited to go to Lazarus because He knew what was going to happen and how it would bring glory to God. God sees the whole picture, so we can trust that His timing is always right. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ecclesiastes 3:11.)

2. How can believers have hope even when someone they love dies?

For a believer, this world is not the end. When a believer dies, they go to heaven to be with the Lord forever, experiencing the new life He gives—free from sin, pain, sadness, and sickness. This allows those who have trusted Jesus as Savior to have hope even in sadness, knowing through Jesus' death and resurrection, all believers will be with God in heaven when they die. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.)

3. What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?

Jesus demonstrated that He is both the resurrection and the life by raising Lazarus from the dead. He alone could raise Lazarus from physical death, but He also is the only one who can provide spiritual life for anyone who trusts in Him. The only way we can have forgiveness of sins and eternal life is through Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 14:6.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why do we need to be born again?
Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us
new life.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to John 11:25. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Our key passage reminds us that even when a believer dies physically in this world, they are alive in heaven with the Lord. Because of Jesus, believers can have eternal life.

Invite kids to sit around tables. Distribute wooden craft sticks or paint stirrers to each kid. Place glue in the center of each table. Challenge kids to glue the craft sticks or stirrers into the shape of a cross. Then, direct them to write the key passage on their cross, either from memory or by copying it from the Key Passage Poster.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending Jesus so that believers can spend eternity with Him.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Form kids into groups of three or four. Invite one group to come to the front of the class and listen closely as you read today's story. Stop after a few sentences and challenge the group in the front to think of what comes next in the story. Allow the group a minute to work together and come up with how they want to act out the next scene together. Then, challenge the group to act out what happens next. Encourage the rest of the kids to guess what the group in front is acting out. Then, invite another group to the front and repeat, pausing at a different part of the story. Continue until all groups have had the opportunity to act out a scene.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, showing that He is the Messiah who gives physical life, but also eternal life to anyone who trusts in Him as Savior.