

# Lazarus Comes Back to Life

(John 11:1-46)

## Pre-Session Warm Up

What was the worst day of your life? [Teacher, let the children discuss.] Have you ever felt like giving up? Perhaps you hoped for the best, but things didn't work out as planned. Maybe you've wondered, "If God loved me so much, why would He let this happen?"

When things go wrong in your life, you may wonder why God doesn't seem to do anything about it. Sometimes He waits until you think it's too late. You can feel as if there's no hope, and you may want to give up. You might even feel that the Lord can't do anything to help you. But no matter how bad it looks, if you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you know that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

The ladies in our Bible story today might have had those same thoughts of hopelessness as their sick brother was about to die!

## Opening Prayer

Lord, Thank You that You do love us and have a wonderful plan for our lives. Teach us this morning that we can trust You even the worst day of our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Memory Verse

*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (John 11:25)*

## Lesson

Jesus had many friends. Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus were some of Jesus' special friends. Jesus liked to go to their house because He loved them very much.

One day Lazarus became very sick.

John 11:1

*A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha.*

[Teacher, point out Bethany on the map, about 2 miles east of Jerusalem on the way to Jericho.] When Lazarus became sick, his sisters sent for Jesus.

John 11:3

*So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."*

The two sisters sent a message to Jesus. They believed that Jesus could make Lazarus well because they had seen His miracles.

John 11:4

*But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."*

Jesus was explaining to His disciples that God had a purpose for the illness. When trouble comes, do you grumble, complain or even blame God? Any trial that you are facing can bring glory to God because He can bring good out of any bad situation. You should see your problems as opportunities for God to show His power and strength!

John 11:5-6

*So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, (6) he stayed where he was for the next two days.*

Why didn't the Lord Jesus go to Lazarus right away? Was it that He didn't know how serious the situation was or that He couldn't do anything about it? [Teacher, let the children respond.] No! Jesus is God, He knows everything: He knew that Lazarus was about to die. And Jesus knew He had the power to heal him! No, Jesus had a very special reason for staying where He was. He wanted people to see how truly wonderful and powerful God is. He wanted people to be amazed at Him.

When you have no control over what's happening and you think the situation you are in is hopeless, remember God knows what is happening. That's what Mary and Martha needed to do as they waited for Jesus to come.

John 11:7

*Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."*

Jesus waited until Lazarus was good and dead before he went to him.

John 11:11-13

*Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up." (12) The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" (13) They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.*

The disciples didn't think that Jesus knew Lazarus was dead, but the Lord corrected them.

John 11:14-15

*So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. (15) And for your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there, for now you will really believe. Come, let's go see him."*

Why do you think that Jesus was glad? He wanted to make sure there was no doubt in anybody's mind that Lazarus was really dead.

John 11:17

*When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days.*

When Jesus arrived four days after Lazarus had died, He found many mourners trying to comfort Mary and Martha.

John 11:19

*and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.*

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she sneaked out of the commotion to meet Jesus on His way there.

John 11:20-22

*When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. (21) Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."*

Martha believed that Jesus was the promised One from heaven She believed that He had all-power and that God the Father would give Him anything He asked for.

John 11:23-27

*Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." (24) "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day." (25) Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. (26) Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" (27) "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I have always believed you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who has come into the world from God."*

Jesus has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins. This is because He is the Creator of life. The moment you believe that Jesus is God and that what He did on the cross was take the punishment that you deserve for all the naughty things you've ever done or will ever do, you become "Born Again." If you are a "Born Again" believer in Jesus, you have new life from God. Not only do you receive His blessings now, but also you will have a forever life with Him in heaven after you die.

After Jesus died on the cross, He came back to life again and then He rose up to heaven. But before He ascended back to the Father, Jesus said, "*Because I live, you also will live.*" This is what Jesus meant when He said, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.*"

## John 11:28-30

*Then she returned to Mary. She called Mary aside from the mourners and told her, "The Teacher is here and wants to see you." (29) So Mary immediately went to him. (30) Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him.*

Although Martha secretly called Mary to come out to meet Jesus, her friends followed closely behind.

## John 11:31-32

*When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there. (32) When Mary arrived and saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

Mary's friends thought she was going out to visit the tomb where Lazarus was buried; then they saw her meet Jesus and fall down on her knees and weep before him.

## John 11:33-34

*When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled. (34) "Where have you put him?" he asked them. They told him, "Lord, come and see."*

When Jesus saw Mary crying, He was moved to tears Himself and asked to be taken to Lazarus' tomb.

## John 11:35-37

*Then Jesus wept. (36) The people who were standing nearby said, "See how much he loved him!" (37) But some said, "This man healed a blind man. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?"*

Jesus cared enough for Mary to weep with her in her sorrow. And, He cares for you and for me as well. When He sees us troubled, He groans in His spirit with us.

## John 11:38-39

*Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance. (39) "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."*

Tombs at this time were usually caves carved in the rock or in a hillside. They were big enough for people to walk inside and several bodies could be placed in one tomb. After a burial, a large stone was rolled across the entrance to the tomb.

## John 11:40

*Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"*

"Trust Me, Martha," Jesus was saying, "and you will see God's power in a way you've never seen before!"

No matter what's happening in your life, don't give up; there's hope in God! Mary and Martha waited to see what the Lord Jesus was going to do to turn this hopeless situation into one that would bring glory to God — one that would cause Lazarus's friends and family to see God's power in a way they had never seen before!

## John 11:41-42

*So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. (42) You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me."*

Jesus didn't need to pray out loud, but He wanted the people to hear Him talking to God the Father.

## John 11:43-44

*Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" (44) And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"*

When you are faced with what seems to be a hopeless situation, God will show you how awesome He is as you wait for His good answer. It may not be at all what you expect, but God can use your troubles to show you something special about Himself and change you to be more like Jesus in the process.

John 11:45-46

*Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. (46) But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.*

Even when they saw the power of Jesus, some refused to believe; they rejected Jesus and plotted his murder. They were so full of pride they preferred to reject God the Son rather than admit that they were wrong.

[Teacher, review the memory verse...] *“Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”* (John 11:25) Do you believe?

## Closing Prayer

Jesus, You are the awesome God, full of power and might. You know all things and You can do all things. We do believe that You came and willing suffered and died on the cross taking the punishment I deserve for my sin. Thank You Jesus for giving Your life's blood so that I don't have to suffer eternal separation from You in Hell after I die. I look forward to being with You in Heaven forever and ever. Amen.

## Learning Activities

### Craft Corner

### Game Center

#### *Wrap the Mummy*

Divide the children into groups of 3 or 4. Supply each team with two rolls of toilette paper. Instruct the teams to pick a “Lazarus”. Then give the teams 5 minutes to wrap their “Lazarus” like a mummy. The team who’s “Lazarus” is most completely covered (legs, arms, etc.) is the winner. Then, play “**Mummy May I?**” as explained next.

#### *Mummy May I?*

With their “Lazarus” wrapped up like a mummy, have each team ask the teacher (or other leader) “*Mummy may I [take three hops]?*” (Let the team decide how they want to proceed.) If they answer a review question correctly, they can proceed. The first team to get their “Lazarus” to the wall is the winner.

Or use the following review questions in another game of your choice:

1. What were Lazarus' sister's names? (Mary and Martha.)
2. Why did Mary and Martha think that Jesus could help their brother? (They believed that Jesus could make Lazarus well because they had seen His miracles.)
3. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick and dying why didn't He hurry over to his house to heal him? (Jesus wanted to prove that He is God and has power over life and death as well as power to forgive sins.)
4. Why can the trials and the hard times that we go through bring glory to God? (God can bring good out of any bad situation.)

5. Why was Jesus “glad” that Lazarus was dead (verse 15)? (He wanted to show God’s power!)
6. What did Martha do as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming? (She went out to meet Him.)
7. What did Jesus mean when He told Martha that He “*is the resurrection and the life*?” (“*Because I live, you also will live.*”)
8. What is the shortest verse in the whole Bible? (John 11:35, “*Jesus wept.*”)
9. Why did Jesus weep? (When Jesus saw Mary crying, He was moved to tears.)
10. What was in front of the tomb? (A stone.)
11. What did Jesus do when they took away the stone from the tomb? (He lifted up His eyes and prayed to the Father.)
12. How many days had Lazarus been in the tomb? (4)
13. How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? What did He do? (He spoke. Just like He spoke the creation into being, He spoke life into the dead man.)
14. Why did some of the people that saw Jesus perform this miracle not believe that He was God? (They were so full of pride, they rejected Jesus rather than admit they were wrong.)
15. What did Jesus give Lazarus after death? (Life after death)
16. How does Jesus give you life after death?

# Life After Death

Read John 11:1-44 to find the word or words missing from each sentence.

1. A man named  became sick, and then died.
2. His two sisters,  and , were sad.
3. Jesus came to  where the sisters lived.
4. The  came too.
5. They all went to the  where the man was buried.
6. Jesus ordered the  across the entrance to be taken away.
7. Jesus called the man's name and told him to .
8. To everyone's amazement the  came out.
9. Jesus gave him  after death.

Unscramble the boxed letters to complete this statement Jesus made. It tells why He is able to give every believer life after death.

I am \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. (Read John 11:25 to check your answer.)

