



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 28

LAZARUS

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.



MONDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 11:1-16

Jesus knew in advance that Lazarus would rise. Jesus received word that His friend Lazarus was very ill, but He delayed His departure for Bethany for two days, announcing that the sickness would “not lead to death.” Jesus tells His disciples that Lazarus’ illness is for the glory of God and so that the Son may be glorified. Jesus then waited two days and announced that He would go to Lazarus. The disciples objected because the Jews wanted to stone Him. But Jesus remained steadfast. No one could take Jesus’ life. Only He could lay it down. Then Jesus told the disciples that Lazarus had died. This time there was no courier with the news. Jesus, the Son of God, simply knew. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dead, but He also knew that Lazarus would not be dead for long.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did Jesus say He was glad that He was not in Bethany? (Jesus was glad for the sake of the disciples so that they might believe in Him. Jesus knew He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead and that it would help His disciples and those who love Him to believe.)

How does reading about the miracles of Jesus help us to believe? (Parents, simply draw out your children here. Jesus’ miracles are a historical account of His power

and tell us about God, just as a history of Abraham Lincoln tells us who Lincoln was. Reading about His miracles builds our faith in an all-powerful God who never changes.)

PRAY:

Thank God for giving us the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, which help us to know and believe in Him.



T U E S D A Y

THE STORY: JOHN 11:17-24

Jesus tells Martha that Lazarus will rise again to comfort her. Martha's faith is strong. She believed that Jesus could have healed her brother had He come sooner. She rightly concludes that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Martha, like many of the Jews, believed in a future resurrection. So when Jesus announced that Lazarus would rise again, she agreed, thinking Lazarus would rise on the final resurrection day. But Jesus meant he would rise today!

TALK ABOUT IT:

How long had Lazarus been dead? (Lazarus had been dead four days.)

Why do you think Jesus waited so long? (Jesus said he waited so that His followers might believe. After four days, no one would doubt that Lazarus was dead. When Jesus called Lazarus out from the tomb, they would all see it as a clear and definitive rising from the dead, and Jesus would be greatly glorified.)

PRAY:

Thank God for His kind plan to consider us and shape history that we might believe.



WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: JOHN 11:25-27

“I am the resurrection and the life.” With these words, Jesus revealed that He is the author of life, God over all creation, and the object of our faith. He had already explained to the disciples that He was glad He was not in Bethany to heal Lazarus so that Lazarus might rise again. Now, Jesus declared that He is the one who rules over life itself. Martha, who had earlier complained that her sister Mary was wasting time at the feet of Jesus, declared her faith with two simple words: “I believe.” These two simple words are all that God requires. This is not works; it is faith. Her statement points to Jesus, the object of our faith. “I believe” humbles the speaker and looks to the object of its faith. The raising of Lazarus is a picture of the gospel. Death looks to claim people, but the plan of God through Jesus conquers death and saves people from eternal death. Jesus told His disciples that He would lay down His own life that He might “take it up again” (John 10:17). Jesus would soon die, but, like Lazarus, be raised again to new life.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who is Jesus talking to in verse 25? (Jesus is talking to Martha, but His words are recorded here for us.)

How should this passage challenge us? (Just like Martha, this passage calls us to believe. We have a choice to make. Jesus is saying that those who believe in Him will never die. The question for us is: “Will you believe in Jesus?”)

PRAY:

Ask God to help every member of your family believe and place his or her hope and trust in Jesus.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: JOHN 11:28-53

Jesus called Lazarus out. Up until now, Jesus had not demonstrated grief for the death of His friend. But when He saw Mary and all the Jews crying, it touched His heart. Of all our actions in life as sinners, perhaps the purest of all our motives is grief. Death is such a wicked enemy of life that those who grieve are pitted resolutely against it. Life is so precious that when it is gone, those who are close can't help but suffer its loss. When our hatred for death and our love for life come together in grief, it is beautiful in the sight of the Lord.

The family and friends of Lazarus would not grieve for long. Jesus called them to take away the stone. He called to Lazarus to come out. Immediately, Lazarus came out! Many people believed He was the Messiah, and news of this miracle spread. A short time later, Jesus was greeted with praise by a large crowd upon His entrance to Jerusalem. But while some were praising him, others were plotting His death.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did the raising of Lazarus affect the people watching? (Many Jews believed, just as Jesus predicted.)

How did the raising of Lazarus affect the Pharisees? (They became upset. They were afraid that so many believers following Jesus might result in trouble with Rome. They made plans to put Him to death.)

How does the rising of Lazarus affect you? (Parents, draw out your children here.)

PRAY:

Praise God for how the recorded miracles of Jesus help us all to believe.



FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: HOSEA 13:14

Jesus is the one who ransoms us from the power of the grave. Jesus raised Jairus' daughter. Jesus raised Lazarus. And Jesus Himself was raised from the dead. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life," (John 11:25).

TALK ABOUT IT:

How does Hosea's prophecy point to Jesus? (Jesus is the one who ransomed us by dying for our sins and then rising again from the grave. It is by Jesus, sacrifice that death was conquered [see 1 Corinthians 15:55-58].)

Could this passage be describing anyone else? (No. Jesus is the only one who has the power over death.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for defeating death that we might be given eternal life!