



## LAZARUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 11:17-44

*The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.*

## LESSON IDEAS

### THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

**Supplies:**

cut up an old sheet into strips to use as grave clothes

This is a great story to act out. You can help the children through the dialogue. One person can play Mary, another Martha and one of the teachers could play Jesus. You can simplify the language. Have some of the children play the role of the tomb by circling Lazarus and joining hands in a circle.

When Lazarus is called from the grave they can break hands and let him come out. Wrap Lazarus in the sheet strips and have him come out celebrating the grace of God.

Talk to the children after the skit and ask them what we learn about God from this story. Elicit the following points:

- God is all-powerful
- God rules over death
- God can raise people who have died to new life
- Jesus loves and cares for us (Jesus loved Lazarus)
- If we believe in Jesus, though He died, yet He lives

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### MEMORIZE JOHN 11:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,"

Go over this verse with the children. Ask them why Jesus said this to Martha to encourage her. Ask them why this verse should encourage us. Form two teams, boys against the girls. See which group can repeat the verse, without help, the best.

## WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

"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 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.

