

## LAZARUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 11:17-44



## The STORY

Read about Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave in John 11:17-44.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Who was Lazarus? (Lazarus was Mary and Martha's brother and a friend of Jesus.)
- What happened to Lazarus? (Lazarus became very sick and then died.)
- Why did Martha want Jesus to come before her brother died? (Martha was aware that Jesus had healed many people. She knew that Jesus would have healed His friend. What she didn't know was that Jesus' power was greater than she thought. Jesus was not just a healer of the sick but the creator of life itself.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Lazarus stepping out of the tomb with grave clothes on. Engage the children by asking:**

- Why should the story of Lazarus give us hope? (We all hope that after we die we will live again with Jesus. Hearing the story of Lazarus can strengthen our faith that if we trust in Christ we too will live again.)
- What do you think Lazarus thought as people began to explain to him all that took place? (Lazarus was certainly amazed and filled with joy.)
- What other Bible story is this one most like? (This story is most like the story of Jesus' resurrection. Not only did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead, He Himself rose from the dead. That gives special meaning to His words to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life.")

## LAZARUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 11:17-44

### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- Why didn't the people want the stone rolled away from Lazarus' tomb? (Lazarus had been dead four days and they thought his body would have begun to decay and smell foul.)
- Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? (He raised Lazarus so that the people standing around watching would believe that He was God.)
- Did everyone believe?  
Read John 11:45-48 to the children. Many believed in Jesus as a result of what He did with Lazarus but the chief priests began to make plans to put Jesus to death.

### 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.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

