

Jesus Raised Lazarus

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 11:1-7,17-44

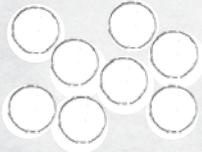
MAIN POINT: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

SMALL GROUP OPENING
(10–15 MINUTES)

PAGE 206



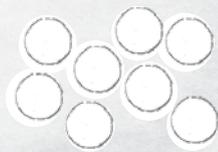
LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY
(25–30 MINUTES)

PAGE 208



SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(25–30 MINUTES)

PAGE 214



4

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus received word that His friend Lazarus, was sick. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha. They lived in the town of Bethany, which was about two miles away from Jerusalem. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus, likely expecting Him to come right away.

Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; yet He stayed where He was, and Lazarus died. Why would Jesus do such a thing? Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness was "for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). He said that He was glad He wasn't there when Lazarus died so that the disciples may believe. (John 11:15) Jesus' timing is always perfect, and He acts or doesn't act so

that God will be glorified.

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha went to meet Jesus. She said to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” Jesus had shown His power to heal people who were sick. Even still, she believed He could do a miracle.

Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25). Jesus is the source of life—eternal life that cannot be destroyed by death. Believers do not need to fear death because physical death is not the end. (See John 11:25-26.) Jesus endured death for us so that when we die and are absent from our physical bodies, our souls are with the Lord. (See 2 Cor. 5:8.)

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. His messiahship was clearly on display, and it was Jesus’ claims to be the Son of God that would lead to His death on the cross. Jesus interrupted Lazarus’s funeral knowing His would soon follow.

Emphasize to kids that when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.



MINISTRY GRID
training made simple

Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Raised Lazarus

John 11:1-7,17-44

- **Act it out:** Choose volunteers to act out the story. Assign parts for Jesus, a few disciples, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Use props and costumes to really make the story engaging.
- **Move with the story:** Start at one end of the room when you begin telling the story. When Jesus travels to Bethany, move to the other side of the room. Place props along the way that you can use to emphasize various parts of the story.

Jesus and Lazarus were friends. Lazarus lived in the town of Bethany, in Judea, with his sisters, Mary and Martha. **One day, Lazarus got sick. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus. “Lord, Your friend Lazarus is sick,” they said.**

Jesus told His disciples, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. **This sickness will bring glory to God and to the Son of God.**” Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. Then Jesus said, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in a tomb for four days. Martha hurried to meet Jesus, but Mary stayed home.

Martha said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” Martha knew Jesus could do a miracle, though. “I know God will give You whatever You ask,” she said.

Jesus replied, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha believed that Lazarus would rise from the dead in the future—on the last day. But **Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?”**

“Yes, Lord,” Martha said. “I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

Martha went back to her house. She told Mary that Jesus wanted to see her. So Mary left the house, and all the people who had come to comfort Mary and Martha followed her.

Mary fell at Jesus’ feet and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!” Mary was

crying, and Jesus wept too.

Mary led Jesus to the tomb where Lazarus was buried.

It was a cave, and a huge stone covered the opening.

“Remove the stone,” Jesus said.

So the stone was moved aside. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank You that You heard Me.” Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

Lazarus came out of the tomb, wrapped in linen and cloth. Jesus said, “Unwrap him and let him go.”

Christ Connection: When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Mary and Martha waited for Jesus—but He arrived “too late.” Jesus reminds us that those who trust Him will live with Him forever, even if we die. (Isa. 41:10) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Raised Lazarus

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 11:1-7,17-44

MAIN POINT: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, invite them to share about a time they were late somewhere. Did they miss out on anything? Is it ever good to be late?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Jesus Is . . .” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Jesus Is . . .” on the activity page. Kids should unscramble the words and fill in the blanks to reveal what Jesus said about Himself. If kids need help spelling the words, prompt them to read John 11:25 in their Bibles.

SAY • Jesus said that He is the resurrection and the life. I wonder what He meant by that. We are going to find out in today’s Bible story.



LOW PREP

- long jump rope

Option: If space allows, provide a rope for each group.

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Jump rope

Clear a large area to safely jump rope. Form groups of three kids. Choose one group to play first. Two of the kids will stand several feet apart and hold the ends of a long jump

rope. The third kid will stand between them. Guide the group to jump rope together:

1. The jumper will turn and face one of the turners. The rope should lay on the ground to her left or right.
2. The turners will throw the rope over the jumper's head. The jumper should jump when the rope reaches the ground.
3. Allow the group members to practice until they develop a rhythm. Then allow other groups to try.
4. Prompt the other groups to cheer on and encourage the team who is jumping rope.

SAY • What did you have to do to jump rope? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Jumping rope involves having just the right timing. If you jump too soon or too late, you'll trip over the rope. Today's Bible story is about a time when Jesus had perfect timing. He didn't jump rope; He did something even more amazing!

OPTION 2: Come out!

Lead kids to stand in a circle. Give one player a beach ball. Kids should pass the ball around the circle. As kids pass the ball, play the unit theme song.

• beach ball
• "Mighty Healer" song

Randomly pause the music. Say to the player with the ball, "[*Kid's name*], come out!" The player should step out of the circle and perform a silly motion. (Suggestions: waddle like a duck, spin around three times, whistle a familiar tune, and so forth) Start the music and resume play.

SAY • Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a time Jesus told His friend to come out of a tomb. We'll find out what happened next.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Raised Lazarus

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 11:1-7,17-44

MAIN POINT: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- Bible
- clipboard
- paper
- table or small bed
- white bedsheet

[Large Group Leader enters wearing solid-colored clothing, such as medical scrubs. Leader carries a Bible and a clipboard with a blank piece of paper. A small bed or table is positioned at the front of the room and covered with a white bedsheet.]

LEADER • Welcome, everyone! Thank you for coming today. I'm glad you are here; I might have been lonely without you. You see, I have no patients today. This bed here is empty! The patient who was in this bed is all better, and he went home a few hours ago.

[Sigh.] You know, seeing people day in and day out who are sick or hurting isn't an easy job—especially when they don't get better. That's why I can't wait for you to hear today's Bible story! It's about Jesus, the great Healer.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Jesus had been busy teaching people, performing

miracles, and healing people. As we've listened to the stories about Jesus' healings, we have been answering our big picture question: ***What did Jesus heal people from?*** Can anyone tell me the answer? [*Allow kids to respond.*] That's right. Let's say it all together. ***What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.***

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • The first story we heard about Jesus healing someone was called “Four Friends Helped.” Who remembers what Jesus did in that story? (**Jesus healed a man and forgave his sins.**) Then we heard about Jesus' power over evil. **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.**

Last time, our story was about how **Jesus healed a bleeding woman and raised a girl from the dead.** Incredible! Today's story is called “Jesus Raised Lazarus.” It is from the Gospel of John in the New Testament. Let's check it out.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 11:1-7, 17-44. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Raised Lazarus.”

LEADER • Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were Jesus' friends. When Lazarus got sick, Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus. Now, when I hear that someone I love is sick, I want to go visit him or her right away! Did Jesus hurry to see Lazarus? No, but Jesus had a bigger plan. He waited two more

• Bibles
• “Jesus Raised Lazarus”
video
• Big Picture Question
Poster
• Bible Story Picture
Poster

days before He went to Judea where Lazarus, Mary, and Martha lived.

Jesus' disciples weren't sure if going to Judea was a good idea. Some of the Jews who lived there did not like Jesus. Jesus' disciples did not want Jesus to get hurt. But Jesus explained that Lazarus had died, and Jesus was going to wake him up.

By the time Jesus got to Bethany, the town where Mary and Martha lived, Lazarus had been buried in a tomb for four days. Martha hurried out to meet Jesus. She knew Jesus could have kept Lazarus from dying. Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Now Martha thought Jesus was talking about the last day—a day in the future when Jesus will come back to earth and all believers will rise from the dead. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live."

Martha's sister, Mary, came to meet Jesus too. She cried because her brother had died, and Jesus cried too. They went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried, and Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha objected. After four days, Lazarus' body would smell. But Jesus told her that if she believed, she would see how great God is.

So the stone covering the entrance of the tomb was taken away, and Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus came out of the tomb. He was wrapped in cloth, so Jesus said, "Unwrap him and let him go."

If Jesus had healed Lazarus when he was sick, no one would have seen how **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead**. Jesus showed His power over death, and many people believed in Him.

Christ connection

LEADER • When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. When Jesus rose from the dead, God showed He was satisfied with Jesus’ sacrifice. The payment was accepted. Jesus gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Read Psalm 103:2-3 aloud. Then lead boys and girls to read the key passage together.

LEADER • Like King David, we need to remind ourselves every day about what Jesus has done for us. We can get distracted by everything else going on in life that we forget the gospel. Memorizing God’s Word can help us remember what is true about God and about ourselves. Use our key passage song to help you memorize our key passage.

Lead boys and girls in singing “My Soul, Praise the Lord.”

- Key Passage Poster
- “My Soul, Praise the Lord” song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • When you go to the movies, how do you know the movie is over? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Watch this. Show the “Unit 24, Session 4” discussion starter video. Then guide kids to discuss the following questions:

- Why was the kid upset that the movie stopped? How did he know it wasn’t the end?
- When believers pass away, why do we still have hope? (*Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Death is not the end.*)

- “Unit 24, Session 4” discussion starter video

- Why do you think Jesus did this miracle so close to His crucifixion?

LEADER • We can give God glory even in sickness and death. For those who believe in Jesus, death is not the end. We can trust in His power to raise us from the dead. When **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead**, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Sing (4 minutes)

• “Mighty Healer” song

LEADER • Knowing that *Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death* makes me so happy. Let’s sing. Sing together the unit song “Mighty Healer.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. We praise You for His mighty works. He is our Healer. We know that because Jesus died on the cross and is alive, we have hope beyond this life. Though our bodies may die, we believe that we will live forever with You. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Small Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Raised Lazarus

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 11:1-7,17-44

MAIN POINT: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Form two groups of kids. Say a phrase (two to four words) of the key passage and then prompt the first group to repeat after you. Then the second group should echo the phrase.

Continue saying, repeating, and echoing phrases until kids say the entire passage. Then play again, allowing the second group to repeat you and the first group to echo.

SAY • In today's Bible story, **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.** Psalm 103:2-3 reminds us that Jesus is our Healer. Like the people in the Bible, we can look to Him to heal us from sickness, sin, and death.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Main Point Poster

Provide a Bible for each kid and instruct kids to stand.

Guide them to find the Book of John in the Bible. When a kid has located the book, she may sit down. Assist any kids who need help. Ask kids to identify what books come before and after the Book of John. (*Luke, Acts*)

Direct kids to turn to John 11:1-44 and use the Bible to answer the following questions about the Bible story. If kids struggle to find the answer to a review question, supply the verse reference.

1. Which of Jesus' friends got sick? (*Lazarus, John 11:1*)
2. Who were Lazarus's sisters? (*Mary and Martha; John 11:1,21,32*)
3. How much longer did Jesus stay in the place where He was? (*two days, John 11:6*)
4. What happened to Lazarus while Jesus was away? (*Lazarus died, John 11:14*)
5. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb when Jesus arrived? (*four days, John 11:17*)
6. Which sister came to meet Jesus right away? (*Martha, John 11:20*)
7. Who did Jesus say He is? (*the resurrection and the life, John 11:25*)
8. What did Martha believe about Jesus? (*He is the Messiah, the Son of God; John 11:27*)
9. What did Jesus shout? (*"Lazarus, come out!" John 11:43*)
10. Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? (*Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death, John 11:4*)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

SAY • Great job, everyone. Now, I will ask our big picture question. If you know the answer, shout it out.

What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Go for help!

Prepare three signs: *Mom*, *medicine*, or *map*. Tape the signs to separate walls. Call for kids to stand in the center of the room. Explain that you will describe a situation. Kids should run and stand by the sign that shows who or what would help them most in a situation.



- large pieces of paper
- marker
- tape

For each situation, ask a player to explain his choice. Suggested situations: *lost in a forest, having trouble with geography homework, feeling sick, feeling hungry, having leg pain, planning a trip*, and so forth.

SAY • When Lazarus got sick, Mary and Martha sent for Jesus. But Jesus didn't come right away, and Lazarus died. Mary and Martha must have thought their situation was hopeless and that no one could help them. But Jesus has power over death! **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.**

The Bible is clear that because we sin, we deserve to die. That's bad news. But the good news is that God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we cannot live and die the death we don't want to die. When we trust in Him, God forgives our sin. Jesus frees us from sin and death, and He gives us eternal life. We may die physically, but we have the hope of life with God forever.

OPTION 2: Wrapped up relay

Mark a start line and finish line on the floor, about 30 feet apart. Form teams of three to five kids. Instruct each team to choose a volunteer to be the runner. Give each team a roll of crepe paper or two rolls of bath tissue.

When you say "go," players will wrap their team's runner from ankles to head. Kids should wrap the player's arms and legs separately to aid mobility. Kids should use all the paper, but be sure they do not cover a player's eyes or mouth.

When the runner is completely wrapped, he should race from the start line to the finish line and back again. The first runner to return to his team wins.

SAY • Nice work! In Bible times, when a person died, his

- white crepe paper streamers or bath tissue
- masking tape or painter's tape

body would be washed, covered with good-smelling spices or oils, wrapped in linen cloth, and buried in a cave or tomb.

That's what had happened to Lazarus. He had died and had been in a tomb for four days! But that didn't stop Jesus. **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.** Like Lazarus was physically dead, we are all spiritually dead. But Jesus can free us from the power of sin and death. When we trust in Him as Lord and Savior, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute pencils and journal pages to kids. Prompt kids to journal any questions or thoughts they have about today's Bible story. Perhaps kids have questions about death or eternal life. Encourage them to talk with a parent this week about their questions.

SAY • When Jesus found out that Lazarus was sick, He said that Lazarus's sickness would bring glory to God and to the Son of God. That's exactly what happened.

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus showed that He is God, and He has power over death.

Invite kids to share prayer requests. Then lead kids in prayer. Thank God for His Word and for the hope of a resurrection and eternal life with Him.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Name Game" on the activity page. Direct kids to fill in the blanks with the names that correctly complete the story. (*Answers: Mary, Martha, Jesus, Lazarus, Jesus, Lazarus, Mary, Jesus, Lazarus, Jesus, Lazarus, Lazarus, Jesus*)

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Name Game" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.