



August 20, 2023

UNIT 24 SESSION 2

## Jesus Raised Lazarus

JOHN 11-12

### KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why do people reject Jesus?

People reject Jesus because all people are born with a sin nature and want to please themselves rather than obey God.

### 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 sins and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

## **LEADER Bible Study**

The account of Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead is a foundational passage in the New Testament. Not only was a dead man brought back to life, this passage in John 11 also contains the shortest verse in the Bible and a glimpse into the humanity of Jesus. John 11:35 says, "Jesus wept."

In this historical account of the death of Jesus' dear friend, Jesus is questioned three times for not arriving sooner. The primary reason He is questioned can be found in the words of both Mary and Martha: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." (John 11:21,32)

Mary, Martha, and others around them had seen and heard of the miraculous things that Jesus was doing. They had only seen Him miraculously prevent death. Their framework for how Jesus worked was limited to their experience with Him.

Martha showed a glimmer of hope in John 11:22 when she said, "Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." However, she still seemed to limit what Jesus could do to her previous experience.

It can be easy to put God inside of a box, to limit what we believe He can do to what we've seen Him do before. Yet Jesus' delay served a greater purpose: to give Him the opportunity to perform an even greater miracle—and thus display God's glory.

Today, we often struggle to pray with confidence that God could heal physical ailments or save those that seem most unlikely to repent. In our minds, we limit what God can do to what we have seen or can explain.

What if we prayed with the confidence that God is a wonder worker, doing more than we could ever ask or imagine? What if we believed that God isn't bound by our opinions or perspectives? What if we demonstrated our confidence in a God who is beyond our full comprehension, but is always within our reach? Not only would this type of faith change us, but it would also greatly impact those around us.

### **PEOPLE TO KNOW**

**Lazarus:** Lazarus (a shortened form of Eleazer) of Bethany was a personal friend of Jesus and the brother of Mary and Martha.



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, ask kids about their week, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** Have you ever been late to an important event? Why were you late? Has anyone ever been late to your birthday party or other fun event? How did that make you feel?

### **Activity Page** (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete "Color by Number" on the activity page.

**SAY** Today, we will learn that Jesus has power over death and brought a man back to life.

### **Session Starter** (10 minutes)

#### **OPTION 1: POWER OF WORDS**

Choose one kid to be It and ask her to stand at one end of the room. Lead the other kids to stand at the other end of the room. Direct It to call out different actions such as "Hop three times," "Walk backwards five steps," or "Crab walk two spaces." Instruct the kids to follow her directions carefully. Allow It to call out three to four directions, then choose another kid to be It. Play several rounds as time allows.

**SAY** Words have power! In our game, we listened to the action words and followed their directions. But Jesus' words are much more powerful than ours. Did you know that Jesus used His words to speak all of creation into existence? In our story, we will learn how Jesus' words raised his friend Lazarus from the dead!

#### **OPTION 2: LINEN WRAP**

Form kids into groups of three. Lead the groups to choose one person to be "Lazarus." Provide the other two kids with a roll of toilet paper and direct them to pass the roll back and forth as they wrap the paper around "Lazarus." Allow the groups two minutes to wrap "Lazarus" with the toilet tissue. Repeat as many times as desired, switching which kid is "Lazarus."

**SAY** During the time of Jesus, sometimes when someone died, he would be covered in linen and then placed in a tomb. The toilet paper represents the linen that Lazarus wore when he was placed in the tomb. But we will learn that Lazarus didn't wear the linen long because Jesus raised him from the dead.

## **LEARN the Bible Story**

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

Use [The Gospel: God's Plan for Me](#) as a reference.

### **Key Passage Activity** *(10 minutes)*

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 53:3 together.

**SAY** Our key passage reminds us that Jesus loved us even when it meant He would suffer. He came to save us from sin and death.

Read the key passage aloud together. Write the key passage words or phrases on a piece of construction paper and spread them across the floor at a distance away. Have the key passage poster visible to help those who can't read and to keep track of what word/phrase is next.

One at a time race to find the First word/phrase bringing it back to the group. Have the next person go and find the next. Continue until all the words have been brought back to the group and put in order.

For an extra challenge, time the group to see how fast they can put it verse together.

## LOVE God by Applying the Story

### **Bible Skills & Review** (10 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 11. Explain that John is one of the four Gospels. Tell kids that Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell the true story of Jesus' power over death when He rose from the dead.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 11:43-44 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud. Consider pointing out the location of Bethany (15), where Lazarus lived, on the New Testament Israel Map.

**SAY** All Jesus did to raise Lazarus from the dead was say, 'Lazarus, come out!' He holds all power, even through His words. Immediately, Lazarus rose and walked out of the tomb. But Lazarus was still bound with the linen and needed someone else to remove the linen. Lazarus still needed Jesus to die for his sins because only Jesus can take away sins. Later, after Jesus had died, the disciples went to Jesus' empty tomb and found His linen clothes folded. Unlike Lazarus, when Jesus was raised from the dead, He did not need anyone to help Him take off His grave clothes. Jesus had risen from the dead and defeated sin and death!

### **Group Discussion** (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the kids to discuss their answers.

**SAY** What should we do when we feel sad or hurt?

Remind kids that we all feel sad and hurt at times. Tell kids that sin has made our world broken where bad things still happen. Discuss how Mary and Martha came to Jesus even when they were sad and believed His words. Encourage kids to go to Jesus and believe that He is making all things new.

**SAY** Can we still trust God even when His plans seem late? Why?

Discuss how Mary and Martha didn't understand why Jesus had not come to see Lazarus sooner. Tell kids that they believed that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Help kids understand that God's plans always work for our good, even if His plans seem late. Tell kids that Jesus promises He will always be with us and that He knows all things. Encourage kids to always trust God's timing.

**SAY** Why did Jesus say He is the resurrection and the life?

Tell kids that not only does Jesus have the power to raise people from the dead, but that He is the source of all life. Explain that Jesus would ultimately display His resurrection and life giving power when He would rise from the grave and conquer sin and death. Remind kids that the consequences of sin is death, and that only Jesus lived the perfect life to be the perfect sacrifice our sin requires.

## LIVE the Mission

### Activity Choice (10 minutes)

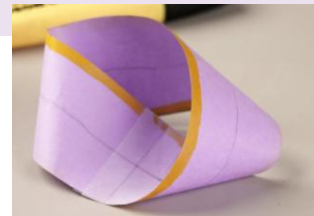
#### ETERNAL LOOP

Provide each kid with an “Eternal Loop” printable, tape, and glue. Lead kids to cut out the strips of paper and the person along the dotted lines. Direct kids to glue each pair of paths together back to back. Then lead the kids to tape the two paths together to form one long path.

Tell kids to bend the road into a loop, then twist the loop 180 degrees and tape the ends of the path together, like an infinity symbol.

Lead kids to fold the solid lines of the person, wrap the person around the path, and tape the person around the loop. (boy and girl printable options) Invite kids to move the person to the cross and gently slide the person around and around the loop.

**SAY** Our eternal loops are a fun way to remember that when we place our faith in Jesus, we are given new, eternal life in Him. Our eternal loop shows us that His love is never ending there is only one way to eternal life—through faith in Jesus. You can use your eternal loops to tell others about how they can have eternal life in Jesus.



### Reflection and Prayer (5 minutes)

Ask the kids the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

#### Pray with your group!

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to die for our sin so that we can have eternal life. You are good and You can always be trusted. In Jesus' name, amen.

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.