

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

(15–20 MINUTES)

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LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

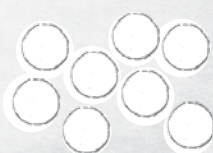
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

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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 preschoolers 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.



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

• Invite a guest storyteller:

Consider inviting guest storytellers for each session in this unit to tell the story from the perspective of the person who was healed. For this session, invite a male guest to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the story from Lazarus's perspective. You may also invite a female guest to tell the story from Martha's or Mary's perspective.

- **Act it out:** Ask several preschoolers to help act out the Bible story as you read it aloud. You will need a preschooler to be Jesus, Martha, Mary, and Lazarus. Several others can act as disciples.

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

Jesus said to His friends, the disciples, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. This sickness will show how great God is and how great the Son of God is.”

Jesus did not go to see Lazarus right away. He stayed where He was for two more days. Then He told His friends, “Let’s go back to the land of Judea. Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going to go wake him up.”

Jesus’ friends thought that Lazarus was just resting, but Jesus said, “Lazarus has died.”

By the time Jesus got to the place Lazarus had lived, Lazarus had been buried in a tomb for four days. Martha hurried to meet Jesus. “Lord, if You had been here, my brother Lazarus would not have died.” But Martha knew Jesus could do a miracle. “I know God will give You whatever You ask from Him,” she said.

Jesus said, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha believed Jesus. She thought Lazarus would rise from the dead at the end of time. But Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” He said that people who believe in Him may die in their bodies, but God will raise them from the dead. “Do you believe this?” Jesus asked.

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

Then Martha went home to get her sister, Mary. Mary

came and fell at Jesus' feet. She said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother Lazarus would not have died!" Mary was crying, and Jesus cried too.

Mary took Jesus to the place where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave, and a big stone covered the opening. Jesus told the people to move the stone.

The stone was moved out of the way. Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me." Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus came out of the tomb, wrapped in linen and cloth. He was alive! Jesus said, "Unwrap him and let him go."

Christ Connection: 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. Those who trust in Jesus will live forever with Him.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers 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

- “Jesus Is the Healer” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Jesus Heals People” activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Guide preschooler to draw a line connecting the matching people. As preschoolers work review this unit’s Bible stories.

SAY • Great job matching! Do you recognize any of these people from some of the Bible stories we have heard? Jesus healed all these people. Look at this man. [*Point to Lazarus.*] Today we will hear the story from the Bible about how **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.**

Move fast or slow

Lead preschoolers to line up along one side of the room. Explain that you will call out a scenario. If a preschooler would move fast in that scenario, she should walk quickly to the other side of the room. If a preschooler would move slowly in that scenario, she should walk slowly to the other



side of the room. Use the following scenarios or create your own:

- It is time to go to bed.
- You are going to visit your grandparents.
- It is time to brush your teeth.
- You are going to a birthday party.
- You are having green beans for dinner.
- You are going to the doctor.
- Your mom says to pick up your toys.
- Your dad says to go outside and play.

SAY • Jesus heard His friend Lazarus was sick, but Jesus did not go to see him right away. He stayed where He was for two more days. Listen to today’s Bible story to find out why Jesus moved slowly to get to Lazarus.

Explore alarm clocks

Bring in a variety of alarm clocks for preschoolers to explore. Include digital and analog versions. Dismantle a broken alarm clock for preschoolers to examine its parts.

SAY • We use alarm clocks to help us wake up. In today’s Bible story, Jesus’ friend, Lazarus was sick. Jesus told His friends, “Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going to go wake him up.” Jesus’ friends thought that Lazarus was just resting, but Jesus said, “Lazarus has died.” Listen to the Bible story to hear how Jesus woke up Lazarus from the dead!

- alarm clocks
- magnifying glasses (optional)

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to walk slowly to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

Large Group LEADER

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Introduce the Bible story

SAY • Pat your head if you have brothers. Cover your ears if you have sisters. Now, touch your nose if you have brothers and sisters. In today's Bible story, Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick. Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha, sent a message to Jesus to come.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at John 11 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • God's words are in the Bible. God's words are always true. The Bible is the most important book. Today's Bible story comes from the Book of John.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Martha and Mary were sad. They thought Jesus did not make it in time, but they were wrong. **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.** Jesus is more powerful than death! Later, God showed His power over death again by raising Jesus from the dead.

- Bible
- bookmark
- "Jesus Raised Lazarus" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Those who trust in Jesus will live forever with Him. Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. To whom did Mary and Martha send a message saying their brother Lazarus was sick? (*Jesus*)
2. Did Jesus go to see Lazarus right after He got the message? (*No, He stayed where He was two more days.*)
3. Was Lazarus still alive when Jesus got to the place he lived? (*No, Lazarus had been buried four days.*)
4. What did Martha and Mary say would not have happened if Jesus had been there? (*Their brother would not have died.*)
5. What happened when Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" (*Lazarus came out of the tomb.*)

Learn the big picture question

SAY • What is the answer to our big picture question?

What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to show that He has power over death. When Jesus comes back to earth, He will destroy sickness, sin, and death forever!

• Big Picture Question Poster

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Psalm 103:2-3. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Praise the Lord, My Soul."

SAY • We can praise the Lord like our key passage says because Jesus heals us and forgives all our sin when we trust in Him!

• Key Passage Poster
• "Praise the Lord, My Soul" song

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

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LOW PREP

Sing about Jesus' power

Sing this song to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus."

“Jesus raised Laz’rus from the dead,
from the dead, from the dead
Jesus raised Laz’rus from the dead.
Jesus has the power!

God raised Jesus from the dead,
from the dead, from the dead.
God raised Jesus from the dead
Jesus has the power!

Jesus saves us from our sin,
from our sin, from our sin.
Jesus saves us from our sin.
Jesus has the power!”

SAY • Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. A short while later, Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. God raised Jesus from the dead so that those who trust in Jesus will live forever with Him. Jesus saves us from sin and death!

Play a “Come out!” game

Use a blanket or sheet to cover a table to form a “tomb.” Choose a preschooler to be the guesser. Lead the guesser to close her eyes or face a wall while you choose another preschooler to hide in the tomb.

• blanket or sheet

When the child is hidden, invite the guesser to open her eyes and guess who is in the tomb. She may guess by shouting, “[*hidden child’s name*], come out!” Give the guesser several chances before revealing the identity of the hidden child. Choose another guesser and hider and play again.

SAY • Jesus shouted for Lazarus to come out of the tomb.

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. Those who trust in Jesus will live forever with Him.

Work people puzzles

Gather puzzles depicting people or create your own by gluing pictures of people onto construction paper and cutting them into several pieces. Consider using photos of children in your class to create puzzles. Use a different color of construction paper for each puzzle to prevent puzzle pieces from getting mixed up.

• puzzles depicting people
• pictures of people (optional)
• pictures of children in class (optional)
• construction paper (optional)
• scissors (optional)

SAY • Jesus loves people. He said that people who believe in Him may die in their bodies, but God will raise them from the dead. **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.** He showed that He has power over death. People who trust in Jesus and believe that God raised Him from the dead will live forever with Him.

- construction paper
- scissors (adult use)
- paper cupcake liners
- glue stick
- blunt-tipped scissors
- green markers or crayons

Make sympathy flowers

Before the session, cut 1¼-inch circles from construction paper. Explain to preschoolers that when someone dies, often people send flowers to the person’s family. Provide a sheet of paper for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to glue several cupcake liners to their paper. Demonstrate how to use scissors to cut slits in the cupcake liner to make the edges look like petals. Lead a preschooler to glue a circle in the middle of the cupcake liner and then draw a green line to form a stem. Write the main point on each preschooler’s artwork.

SAY • We do not have to be afraid of death because Jesus has power over death. **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead** to show His power. When Jesus comes back, we will never again need to send people sympathy flowers because Jesus will defeat death forever. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so those who trust in Him will live forever.

Wrap and unwrap Lazarus

- tissue paper rolls

Allow preschoolers to take turns being Lazarus and allowing their friends to wrap them in tissue paper. When a child is wrapped, everyone should say together, “Unwrap him and let him go.” Then the preschooler may break out of the tissue paper while friends help unwrap him.

SAY • Death is no match for Jesus! Jesus waited until Lazarus died before He went to see him. Jesus planned to bring Lazarus back to life. **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead** to show that He has power over death. Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose from the dead. Those who trust in Jesus will live forever with Him.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve string cheese for snack. Point out how the torn off pieces of string cheese may resemble the linen and cloth Lazarus was wrapped in. After **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead**, Jesus said to unwrap Lazarus and let him go. Jesus showed that He has power over death. Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose from the dead. Those who trust in Jesus will live forever with Him.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a cave with a stone in front of it. Remind preschoolers that Lazarus was buried in a cave and Jesus told the people to move the stone. Later, an angel moved the stone from in front of Jesus' grave to show He had risen from the dead.

Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

SAY • God, thank You that Jesus has power over death.

Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose from the dead. Help us to put our trust in Jesus so we can live forever with Him. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*