



# LAZARUS IS ALIVE!

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U3#4 1st-3rd Grade • Sept.10, 2023

## Concept

When Jesus raised people from the dead, he showed proof that he is God.

## Goal

Students will learn that Jesus raised Lazarus as evidence that he is God.

## Passage

John 11:1-45

Key verse: "I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in Me will live again even though they die." John 11:25

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<b>Learning Activity #3:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ace bandages, 2/every 4 students</li></ul>	<b>Activity Station:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 9 story pictures, 1 set/CT class</li><li>• Blank copy paper, 2 sheets/CT class</li><li>• Markers</li><li>• Transparent tape</li><li>• Paper towel tubes, 2/class</li><li>• Lazarus printed on cardstock, 1/student</li><li>• Tomb printed on 2 sides of paper, 1/student</li><li>• Stone printed on gray cardstock, 1/student</li><li>• ¾" x 3" strips of cardstock, 1/student</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Glue sticks</li></ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"The last great 'sign' in John appears in the exact center of his book, chapter 11, and forms a narrative hinge for all that precedes and follows. John points to the miracle involving Lazarus as the event that turned the religious establishment fatally against Jesus. His account also offers a neat summary of what miracles did, and did not, accomplish in Jesus' time on earth.

"The story of Lazarus has a unique 'staged' quality about it. Usually when Jesus got word of a sick person he responded immediately, sometimes changing plans in order to accommodate the request. This time, after receiving word of the illness of one of his good friends, he lingered in another town for two more days. He did so intentionally, in full knowledge that the delay would result in Lazarus's death. John includes Jesus' cryptic explanation to his disciples, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.' Deliberately, he let Lazarus die and his family grieve." [1]

"Martha was crying. Mary was crying. All the mourners were crying. Finally, Jesus himself, 'deeply moved in spirit and troubled,' broke into tears. John does not say why Jesus wept. Since he had already revealed his plans to raise Lazarus from the dead, he surely did not feel the same grief as the devastated mourners. Still, something got to him. As he approached the tomb, again he felt a spasm, 'groaning in spirit; as some translations have it.

"Death had never bothered Jesus before...

"Jesus' prayer at the tombside gives a clue: 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' Nowhere else had Jesus prayed with an over-the-shoulder audience in mind, like a Shakespearean actor who turns to the crowd to deliver an aside. At this moment Jesus seemed self-consciously aware of his dual identity, simultaneously the One who came down from heaven and the Son of Man born on earth." [2]

"The resurrection of one man, Lazarus, would not solve the dilemma of planet earth. For that, it would take one man's death. John adds the startling, ironic detail that the miracle of Lazarus sealed Jesus' fate. 'So from that day on they plotted to take his life.' And from that day on, significantly, Jesus' signs and wonders ceased." [1]

[1] The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey, ©1995 Philip Yancey, Zondervan Publishing House, p. 178,180

[2] Ibid, p. 179.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

### Activity Stations:

- **Illustrations**
  - **Instructions:** Have the students color the 9 pictures for “TV.” When the pictures are finished, tape them together in order from right to left as shown in the diagram. Tape the back and front edges so they don't rip while rolling them. Tape a blank sheet of paper to each end of the taped picture. Tape the blank sheet on each end to a paper towel roll. Roll the picture up from the end to the beginning so the first picture appears while they are rolled from picture 1 to picture 9. Your “TV” for the LESSON is ready to go.
- **Craft – Lazarus Come Out of the Tomb**
  - **Instructions:** Give each student a stone, a Lazarus figure, a tomb printed on both sides of the page. Cut along the dotted line of the tomb page. Fold the paper so the lines and opening of the tomb are aligned. Cut out the stone and glue the left half of it to the outside flap of the tomb so it covers the tomb opening when the paper is folded. Accordion-fold the  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3" strip of cardstock. Open the tomb page and glue one end of the accordion-folded strip to the left of the tomb opening. Glue Lazarus to the other end of the accordion-folded strip of cardstock. Close the page. When it is opened, the tomb will be uncovered and Lazarus will pop out.

## Introduction Lg. Group

### LAZARUS COME OUT OF THE TOMB

What an awesome God we have! Jesus said that He is the Son of God and He showed us His great power through His miracles. (Review authority over the past few weeks over nature sickness and ability to provide for disciples) In our lesson today we will learn that He also has authority over death. Because He did these things we know Jesus is God!

## Transition

Jesus did many things to show others that He is God. Let's open the Bible for our lesson.

## Lesson Lg. Group

**Instructions:** As the passage is read, have 2 students pull the matching picture of the event to appear on the “screen.”

### Let's read John 11:1-45.

We learned in the last unit that Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were friends of Jesus. During the Perea ministry Jesus visited them. When Lazarus became ill, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus because they believed He could heal their brother. Reread verses 4-6. Knowing what Jesus did, what do you think verse 4 means? Look at verses 4 and 15-Why did Jesus stay where He was for 2 more days rather than go immediately to Lazarus?

## Lesson Continued

What do you think He wanted the disciples to see and believe? (He had a greater purpose. Rather than heal Lazarus, He would raise him from the dead to glorify God and demonstrate His authority (power) over death.) What does His authority over death demonstrate? (This demonstrated that Jesus is God's Son.)

## Transition

The drama team is here to do a skit. They are trying to find Jesus, the real Messiah. What criteria do you think they will look for to help them decide? Is it possible to know for sure? Let's see what happens.

## Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

**Drama – Skit “Mission Improbable” performed by the Drama Team**

## Transition

Let's go back to our classrooms.

## Lesson Continued

The skit was a ridiculous exaggeration of the lunatics in our world who claim to be Jesus. There is no compelling reason to believe their claims. On the other hand, God makes it clear that we are to use our minds to determine what is and is not true. He gave us specific characteristics about the Messiah and prophecies (His coming, the place of His birth and His purpose). We have studied Jesus' miracles these last three weeks. Jesus did those miracles not to "wow" people or to show off, but to bring glory to God and to show proof he is God. This last miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead is the most incredible, second only to Jesus' own resurrection from the dead.

Let's look back at John 11:21-24,37 - the disciples and Martha believed Jesus could have healed Lazarus, (they didn't think he would raise Lazarus from the dead though), Our Key verse says "I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in Me will live again even though they die," (John 11:25), Jesus made some pretty bold claims. What are they? (He is the resurrection, therefore He can resurrect and anyone who believes in Him will live even if he dies.) What does it mean that He is the resurrection? To resurrect is to bring back to life after being dead. So before He raised Lazarus, Jesus claimed that He could bring what is dead back to life. Martha's response in verse 27 indicates that she believed Jesus was the Son of God and that He would raise Lazarus from the dead, but not until everyone else was raised to live eternally in heaven.

In verse 35 it says that Jesus wept. In verses 36 and 37, we learn the Jews thought He cried because He was so sorry He hadn't gotten there in time to heal Lazarus.

## Lesson Continued

But Jesus knew exactly what he was doing (he had a plan to wait). So why do you think He wept? Verse 33 says He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. And again in verse 38 John says that He was deeply moved. He was sad over the pain, suffering, and death caused by the sin in this world. Death is a very ugly thing—not at all what God wanted for this world.

After Jesus showed great compassion and love, He raised Lazarus to life and thus showed that "I am the resurrection and the life; those who believe in Me will live again even though they die" (John 11:25). Jesus demonstrated His power to bring back to life someone who had been dead. He said in this verse that we shall live even if we die. What does this mean? (Talking about eternal life--describe). Share gospel and how to ask for it to apply to their lives!

## Transition

Let's get into small groups to chew on a couple of questions and to pray.

## Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Verses 45-48 tell us the two responses to this incredible miracle. Many of the Jews saw what Jesus did and put their faith in Him. But some of them went to tell the Pharisees in order to stir up trouble. The Pharisees and chief priests met and decided that it was time to do away with Jesus. They obviously didn't put their faith in Him.

This may be the first time some of you have heard this story. What do you think about it? Is it hard to believe? God says it really happened and if it is really true, it is important for you to consider the rest of the story and His offer of forgiveness. If you choose to receive that forgiveness you will have a relationship with God now and be assured that you will live forever with Him in heaven after you die.

Others of you have probably heard this story since you were in preschool. Is it just another story that you've always known? What does it mean to you that Jesus was able to raise Lazarus from the dead? (Teacher should be ready with his/her own conviction to get the students thinking; e.g., the incredible power that is available to us to do God's work, the unbelievable love that assures us that we will be resurrected and live forever with God for eternity, etc.) (Help them see ways they could apply this)

**Mission Prayer:** Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray together now. If you have received God's forgiveness, ask Him to give you a greater appreciation for His great power and love.

## Transition

Let's "wrap this up" by seeing how creative you can be. Divide into groups of 4 or 5 and we'll see who can create the most "Lazarus-like" mummy.

## **Learning Activity#3 Lg. Group**

### **Review**

#### **Game – Mummy wrap**

**Instructions:** Keep the small groups together or divide the class into teams of 4 or 5 students. Give each team a roll of toilet paper and have them wrap one member of their team to look like a mummy. Teachers will judge the wraps in the following categories: creativity, neatness, full coverage, etc. Caution the children that toilet paper is thin and tears easily. If they go slowly, they will have a better chance of rolling the mummy tightly.

Only God has the power to raise someone from the dead. Lazarus had been dead and buried for 4 days. Jesus, with His words, called Lazarus back to life and demonstrated that He has authority over death. Re-share what Jesus says about himself in memory verse (John 11:25). Jesus was not talking about life on earth, but what will happen to us after we die. Those who believe in Jesus will have a friendship with Him in this life and then will live forever with Him in heaven after they die. (Re-share gospel) Jesus said that we have a choice. We can decide if we want to believe in Him. That is something everyone gets to decide for themselves.