

Jesus Raised Lazarus

John 11:1-44

Jesus is: Kind

I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
-John 14:6

Summer Sunday Schedule:

8:55-9:05 - Welcome/arrival
9:10-9:30 - Project Station (classroom)
9:35-9:55 - Game Station (LG1)
10:10-10:20 - Story Station (LG2)
10:20-10:45 - Back to classroom; snack and transition to 2nd service

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading John 11:1-44. Note your observations about Jesus' character and what truths you see so you can share them with the kids.

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead shows that Jesus truly is the Messiah - the Son of God. He showed that He has power over death and He gives eternal life to all who trust in Him.

Through this story, we also see the kindness of Jesus. He understood how Mary and Martha were feeling and took the time to cry and mourn with them. We also see that Jesus is never late. Even though He didn't go to Lazarus right away, we can see that His timing is always perfect. We also want to trust God and His timing even when it doesn't seem right to us. We can trust that He does all things for our good and for His glory!



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

- None

Ask the class: **Have you ever had a time when you heard a friend was sick? Did you visit or send a get-well card? If you were sick, what would you want your friends to do?** (Allow responses)

Summarize John 11:1-44 and then discuss the following questions.

Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? Point out that Jesus could have healed Lazarus while he was sick. Instead, Jesus waited and Lazarus died. Jesus said Lazarus' sickness would end not in death but in God's glory. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to show His power over death. Help kids recognize that God sometimes allows bad things to happen so that His glory might be displayed. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Phil. 2:9-11.)

Jesus said, "Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever." What did He mean? Do you believe this? Invite kids to share their thoughts. Remind them that unless Jesus returns first, we will face physical death on earth. But Jesus gives us eternal life. Though our bodies may die, this physical death is temporary. When Jesus returns and sets up His kingdom, we will get new bodies and will live with Him forever. (Option: Choose a kid to read 1 Thess. 4:13-14.)

How do you think someone who comes back to life from the dead might live differently? How should we live differently as Christians who have been brought from death to life? Allow kids to share their ideas.



Craft:

Paper Tube Lazarus

- Paper Tubes
- Gauze
- Googly Eyes
- Glue sticks

Pass out a paper tube, gauze and googly eyes to each child.

Show them how to glue on their googly eyes and then wrap the gauze around the “body” of their tube. Glue the end of the gauze to the tube.

Discuss how Lazarus was bound by his “grave clothes” like a mummy, but that as humans, we are also bound by something. Ask: What are we bound by?

Explain that we are all bound by sin and death and we have no way to save ourselves. Believing in Jesus and that He died on the cross and rose again is the only way to be free. Jesus calls us from death to life so that we can experience His goodness both here on earth and forever in eternal life with Him.



MEMORY VERSE GAME

3 In a Row

- Key Passage Poster
- Construction paper
- Painter's Tape

Practice John 14:6 together a few times.

Write out your memory verse in a grid on the white board (as big as possible!). You may need to split the Bible reference into several different squares or group words together so that it fits into the number of spaces you have. Give the children some time to memorize where the words are!

True	Worshippers	will	worship
the	father	in	Spirit
and	in	truth	John 4:23



Cover each word/section with construction paper and tape.

Split the children into two teams and give each team a different color dry-erase marker. Get teams to take turns in choosing a space and saying which word should be under the post it. If they are correct, they can circle the word in their team color. They can discuss answers in their team but a different person must speak each time.

True	Worshippers		
	father		
		truth	

The first team with three words in a row is the winner!

True	Worshippers	will	worship
the	father	in	Spirit
and	in	truth	John 4:23

Example verse