

JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

Bible Reference: John 11:1-44

Date: 8/30/26

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

1st Service

Memory Verse:

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

Jesus is...

Kind

Schedule

- **Welcome/Arrival.....8:55-9:05**
- **Story Station (LG2).....9:10-9:30**
- **Project Station (Classroom).....9:35-9:55**
- **Game Station (LG1).....10:00-10:20**
- **Back to Classroom:.....10:20-10:45**
 - **Snack and Transition to 2nd Service**

Notes and Reminders

We are so excited to have you join us in discipling our PreK and Kindergarten children as we finish our journey through the life of Christ this summer! We encourage you to pray for the children's hearts to be open to new understanding of why we love and obey God!

////// **SUMMER SUNDAYS 2026**

SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

The basic premise of our existence is that we were created to be in a right relationship with God and glorify His name. Even our most difficult circumstances and life events can be conduits for glorifying God. And yet, in the story of Lazarus' resurrection, we see the tension that often comes in the life of people who trust Jesus but are also struggling with their present circumstances.

John 11 begins with Jesus hearing that Lazarus is dying. Yet, Jesus stays where He is two more days (John 11:6). The text uses the verb *menō*—"to remain, to stay, to abide." It is not the stillness of indifference but the stillness of intention. Jesus is not delayed; He is deliberate. This is the same Greek word that Jesus would use in John 15 to describe what should mark our relationship with Him: "Remain in me" (John 15:5). In both places, the Bible is describing deliberate action.

Some of the deepest struggles in our spiritual lives form around the question, "What do I do when Jesus doesn't move at the speed of my pain?" Mary and Martha cried out for help. They knew Jesus loved them. They also had witnessed Him heal numerous people, and they knew that if He would get there in time, everything would be okay. But the clock kept ticking, and Lazarus kept slipping away. What they interpreted as Jesus' absence was preparation for a greater revelation.

Jesus eventually told His disciples exactly why He waited. He said: "It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). Jesus knew that a greater story was being written, a resurrection story.

When Jesus finally arrived, Martha ran to Him saying, "Lord, if you had been here ..." This statement is similar to the words the disciples would later share on the road to Emmaus when they reflected on Jesus' crucifixion and said, "We had hoped ...". In both instances, Jesus knew that God would be glorified in a mighty way through resurrection.

This week, point kids to the highs and lows in this story. Remind them that our compassionate God identifies with our pain and went to great lengths to one day make all things right again through His life, death, and resurrection.

OUTLINE



Welcome and Arrival

8:55-9:05

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

Choose one or several of the following activities to organize as the children arrive.

Stand or Sit

- Gather boys and girls. Instruct kids to stand if they have a sister and remain seated if they do not. Tell kids to stand if they have a brother. Continue calling out family members (two sisters, no brothers or sisters, etc.) as boys and girls stand and sit.
- SAY In today's Bible story, a man named Lazarus had two sisters. Their names were **Mary** and **Martha**. They were all friends of Jesus. Today we will hear what happened to Lazarus after he became very sick.

Make Play Dough Food

- Provide a ball of play dough for each child. Encourage the kids to make play dough food. Suggest that they make pizza, grapes, and other foods they enjoy.
- SAY **Mary**, **Martha**, and Lazarus were good friends of Jesus. When Jesus came to their hometown, Bethany, He spent time with them and ate with them. One story about **Mary** and **Martha** in the Bible tells about **Martha** fixing food to feed Jesus. If you were making food for a friend to come to your house, what would you want to make? [Allow responses and encourage making those foods with the play dough.] When Lazarus got sick, **Mary** and **Martha** sent a message to Jesus because they knew He loved them, and they believed He could heal Lazarus. Jesus didn't get there before Lazarus died, but Jesus raised Lazarus to show He is God's Son. Jesus died and rose again so we can live forever with God.

Play "I am Thinking of a Friend..."

- Describe a child in the room. Give a general clue first, such as "This friend is a girl." Then give more specific clues to help the kids narrow down who you are describing. You might say, "She has a bow in her hair." Continue giving clues until a child guesses who you are describing. Repeat and describe other friends.
- SAY I had so much fun describing our friends. I am so glad all of you came to church today to hear about Jesus and His friend, Lazarus! IN our story today, we will hear about how Jesus saved Lazarus. How can we be saved? We are only saved by trusting in Jesus. Lazarus, **Mary**, and **Martha** all trusted their friend Jesus.





Story Station (Large Group 2).....9:10-9:30

Project Station (Classroom)

9:35-9:55

Make Friendship Bracelets

- Set chenille stems and bowls of pony beads on a table. **Model** how to thread the pony beads onto a chenille stem. Invite the kids to make one bracelet for themselves and one for a friend who is not in the class. Help twist the ends of the chenille stem together after the kids have added the beads they want.
- **SAY** These bracelets are lovely! You did a great job making a bracelet for yourselves and for a friend. **Mary, Martha, and Lazarus** were good friends of **J**esus. Jesus cried with **Mary** because He was sad that His friend died. But Jesus showed that he is kind when He raised Lazarus from the dead. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins—the wrong things we do that displease God. When we trust in Jesus, we will live with God forever.

Discuss what the children learned during the Bible Story today. Use the main Takeaways as a guide to your discussion.

- Jesus has power over death! He gives eternal life to all who trust in Him.
- Jesus understands us. He is kind and compassionate.
- God's timing is always perfect.
- We can trust Jesus in all circumstances.

Sample Questions:

- What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
 - What were some things in the Bible story that made **Mary, Martha, and Jesus** happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
 - What happened when Jesus said, "Lazarus, come out?" (Lazarus came out of the tomb.)
 - What does this story show us about Jesus' power? (Jesus showed He is the **Messiah** who gives eternal life, Jesus has power over life and death, Jesus can do anything)
 - How can we show others we believe in Jesus like **Mary and Martha** did? (Answers will vary.)
 - How can we be saved? We are only saved by trusting in Jesus.
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Game Station (Large Group 1).....10:00-10:20

Back to Classroom10:20-10:45

Snack and Transition to 2nd Service!

