

Jesus Raised a Widow's Son

Luke 7

Did Jesus ever sin?
No, Jesus never sinned.

"But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin."
1 John 3:5

Story Point:

Jesus raised a widow's son to life.



PREPARE HEARTS

- Welcome - Get Him to Jesus
- Starter Activity - Feelings



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- Review and discuss the Bible Story
- Reflection and Prayer
- Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- Key Passage Activity - Memory Motions
- Group Activity - Before and After
- Group Activity - Freeze Acting and Craft

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Jesus had only just finished healing the centurion's servant in Luke 7:1-10 when He came upon a funeral procession of a widow's only son. Jesus didn't merely feel sorry for the grieving widow; He demonstrated His compassion by publicly raising her son from the dead. In this passage, we witness the truth that only Jesus has the authority to restore the dead back to life.

The timing in which Jesus entered the woman's life is interesting as it appears that He came on the scene just a little to late. Perhaps the woman's son had been sick or had received a mortal wound from an accident. Either way, his time for hanging on to life had passed, and people were now carrying the son's dead body through the streets on the way to the grave. Despite this tragedy, Jesus told the woman not to weep.


This wasn't because He lacked emotion; Scripture tells us Jesus is the man of sorrows acquainted with our grief, suffering and sickness (Isaiah 53:3). No, Jesus understood the depths of the woman's despair, and He embodied the greatest hope in her time of need. The widow no longer needed to cry because Jesus would soon resurrect her son - a precursor to His promise to one day wipe away all tears and bring an end to suffering and death.

This week, lead the kids in your class to see that Jesus offers the gift of eternal, resurrected life to anyone who believes in Him. Just as the widow's son was physically dead but raised to life, Christ will raise all who call on Him to immediate new spiritual life and resurrected physical life at His return.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that Jesus sees our pain and responds with compassion.
- *TRUST in Him for new life.
- *SHARE the good news of Jesus with others.



As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc. When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.
Pen Pal Kit!!



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

WELCOME

Get Him to Jesus

- Activity page
- pencils
- markers

Have you ever seen something so exciting or amazing that you couldn't help but tell someone about it? What did you see? Who did you tell?

Invite kids to complete the "Get Him to Jesus" activity page.

Today we will learn that JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE. Jesus has the power to raise the dead to life, including those who are dead in their sins by giving them new life.

Before this activity, write out different feelings on index cards such as sad, happy, confused, surprised, excited, etc. and place them in a bag. (This will be done for you).

Gather kids in a group and ask for one kid as a volunteer. Direct her to draw a card out of the bag, read it, and act it out.

Challenge the rest of the group to shout out what feeling she is acting out. Continue, using a new volunteer each round.

SAY: In today's story, we will see how a widow and a large funeral crowd went from extreme sadness to complete joy when JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE. Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life and forgive sins.



STARTER Feelings

- Charades Cards in brown paper bag



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K - 4th Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus Raised a Widow's Son

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

Open your Bible to Luke 7.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Bring context: Help kids understand that the widow's situation was not only sad, but also would have been scary for her. Because of the culture at that time, without a husband or son, she would have been left without any financial support.

What's next?: As you tell the story, pause at exciting points and ask the kids to guess what will happen next. Then, continue with the story and see if the kids were correct.

Jesus, His disciples, and a large crowd were traveling to a town called Nain. As Jesus was coming near the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. This man was his mother's only son, and she was a widow, which meant her husband was dead. A large crowd from the city was also with the woman.

When Jesus saw her, He had compassion on her. He said, "Don't cry." Then He came up and touched the coffin carrying the young man's body. The people carrying the coffin stopped. Jesus said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!"

The dead man sat up and began to speak! Jesus brought the man back to his mother. Everyone was amazed, and they glorified God. They said, "A great Prophet has come to us!" and "God has visited His people."

Word about Jesus and this miracle spread throughout Judea and the land.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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Blank paper, Bible Story coloring page, colored pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

As Jesus continued His ministry on earth, He traveled with His disciples to the town of Nain. When they entered the town, they saw a crowd of people carrying a body of a young man who had just died. In the crowd was the man's mother, a widow who had just lost her only son. **What did Jesus say to the widow?** [Allow responses.] Jesus saw the widow, had compassion on her, and told her not to cry. Jesus was getting ready to do something amazing for this woman and her son. Jesus went to the young man's body and told him to get up. The young man got up and began talking! **How did the people who saw this miracle respond?** [Allow responses.] The people were amazed at what they just saw. Jesus had just raised a dead man to life! This miracle caused the people to praise God and tell other people what Jesus had done.

Jesus has the power to raise the dead and give new life because He is the Son of God. When we see Jesus' work in our lives and in the lives of others, we should praise God, just like the crowd did in today's story. We should also go tell others about Jesus so they can experience His power in their lives.

Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. We are all dead in our sins, but Jesus will give us new life in Him if we repent and trust in His life, death, and resurrection.



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God is compassionate - Jesus saw the widow's pain and cared for her. God is powerful - with just His words, Jesus raised the young man back to life. God is life-giving - He gives physical life, but more importantly, eternal life to all who trust in Him.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That there is nothing I can do to earn new and eternal life, it's only by believing in Jesus and what He did for me on the cross.

Pray together: *Jesus, thank You for seeing us, loving us, and giving us new life. Help us to live in wonder at who You are and to talk with You every day. Amen.*



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the "Unit 24, Session 2" questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Are most of the stories in the Bible true?
- How does Jesus' power show that He is God?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud 1 John 3:5

Key Passage Activity:

Memory Motions

- Key Passage Poster

Encourage kids to clap each time they say a word from the key passage.

Repeat and challenge kids to say the key passage together while doing different activities such as clapping on each syllable, snapping for each word, hopping for each word, etc.—doing something different each time they say the key passage.



Before and After

- White paper – Before and After
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute a piece of paper to each kid. Place markers and colored pencils at the center of each table.

Direct kids to fold their paper in half horizontally, creating two sides.

Discuss that we saw how things were before Jesus came and how things changed after Jesus entered the scene.

Challenge kids to draw what was happening in the story before Jesus came on the left sides of their papers. (the funeral procession, the widow crying, etc.) Then, encourage kids to draw how the scene changed after Jesus raised the young man from the dead. (the young man talking, the crowd amazed and rejoicing, etc.)

SAY: Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. He alone can give new life to those who trust Him as Savior.



Freeze Acting and Craft

- Coloring page
- Markers
- Colored Pencils

Ask for several volunteers who want to be actors to come to the front of the room. Challenge the volunteers to listen closely as you whisper a scene from today's story such as:

- the funeral procession
- the sad widow
- Jesus raising the young man from the dead
- the crowd's amazement, etc.

Encourage kids to position themselves in the scene and freeze. Then, challenge the rest of the group to shout out which scene they are acting out. Repeat using a new set of volunteers and new scenes.

Afterward, pass out a coloring worksheet to each child. Set markers and colored pencils on each table. Have the children color in the picture and then help them cut along the dotted line.

Have them fold at the line to make the son lay down and then sit up.

SAY: Today we saw that JESUS RAISED A WIDOW'S SON TO LIFE. Jesus has the power to bring the dead to life. Believers can share this good news with others, so that they can experience the joy of new life in Him.

