

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS TO LIFE

John 11:17-44



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY

John 11:25

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies...



November 13, 2011



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

Normally, in the course of human events people don't get up and walk and live after they are dead. Only a few incidents of resurrection have been recorded, and all them can be found in the Hebrew and Christian Canon. The following story is a record of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus back to life after he had been dead for four days:

// resurrection_of_lazarus //

¹⁷When Jesus finally got there, he found Lazarus already four days dead. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, only a couple of miles away, ¹⁹and many of the Jews were visiting Martha and Mary, sympathizing with them over their brother. ²⁰Martha heard Jesus was coming and went out to meet him. Mary remained in the house.

²¹Martha said, "Master, if you'd been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²²Even now, I know that whatever you ask God he will give you."

²³Jesus said, "**Your brother will be raised up.**"

²⁴Martha replied, "I know that he will be raised up in the resurrection at the end of time."

²⁵"**You don't have to wait for the End. I am, right now,**



Resurrection and Life. The one who believes in me, even though he or she dies, will live.
²⁶And everyone who lives believing in me does not ultimately die at all. Do you believe this?"

²⁷"Yes, Master. All along I have believed that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who comes into the world."

²⁸After saying this, she went to her sister Mary and whispered in her ear, "The Teacher is here and is asking for you." ²⁹The moment she heard that, she jumped up and ran out to him.

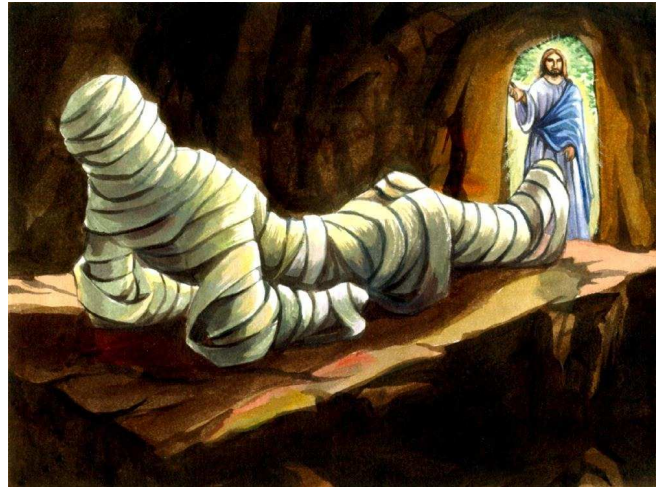
³⁰Jesus had not yet entered the town but was still at the place where Martha had met him.

³¹When her sympathizing Jewish friends saw Mary run off, they followed her, thinking she was on her way to the tomb to weep there. ³²Mary came to where Jesus was waiting and fell at his feet, saying, "Master, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her sobbing and the Jews with her sobbing, a deep anger welled up within him. ³⁴He said, "Where did you put him?"

"Master, come and see," they said. ³⁵Now Jesus wept. ³⁶The Jews said, "Look how deeply he loved him." ³⁷Others among them said, "Well, if he loved him so much, why didn't he do something to keep him from dying? After all, he opened the eyes of a blind man."

³⁸Then Jesus, the anger again welling up within him, arrived at the tomb. It was a simple cave in the hillside with a slab of stone laid against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Remove the stone."



The sister of the dead man, Martha, said, "Master, by this time there's a stench. He's been dead four days!"

⁴⁰Jesus looked her in the eye. "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹Then, to the others, "Go ahead, take away the stone."

They removed the stone. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, "Father, I'm grateful that you have listened to me. ⁴²I know you always do listen, but on account of this crowd standing here I've spoken so that they might believe that you sent me."

⁴³Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴And he came out, a cadaver, wrapped from head to toe, and with a kerchief over his face. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him loose."

[John 11:17-44]



LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

Heaven's Eye View

Jesus seemed to have intentionally waited until Lazarus was good and dead, needlessly putting Mary and Martha through a traumatic experience. Was that fair? Looking at it on a linear scale, no way! Jesus did not take their concerns into account, he was selfish about his own agenda! But look at it from a heavenly, non-linear scale. Step outside of ourselves and look at the big picture. We have an advantage because we are reading this account two thousand years later, but it is still operative how we look at things. We must entertain thoughts and emotions outside of ourselves and look at them through the eyes of God and the kingdom. This is hard to understand, I am probably the worst offender. But just because it's hard, does not make it any less true.

Jesus Conquers the Grave

Jesus does have the power over death. We can trust in Him for life everlasting because he has the power over the grave. No one on earth has that capability. Only God does. And through Him we might have life in His name—Jesus.

Jesus Displays Human Emotion

It is possible for God to grieve. We often think of God as emotionless, purely objective with this world, like a referee not taking either side. But read through the Bible (especially the OT prophets) and the reader will find countless occurrences of the emotions of God. I think it is remarkable that Jesus wept. He loved his friend Lazarus. And we know that He loves us that much, too. He loved us so much that he died on the cross for our sins, so that we could have life in his name.



QUESTIONS

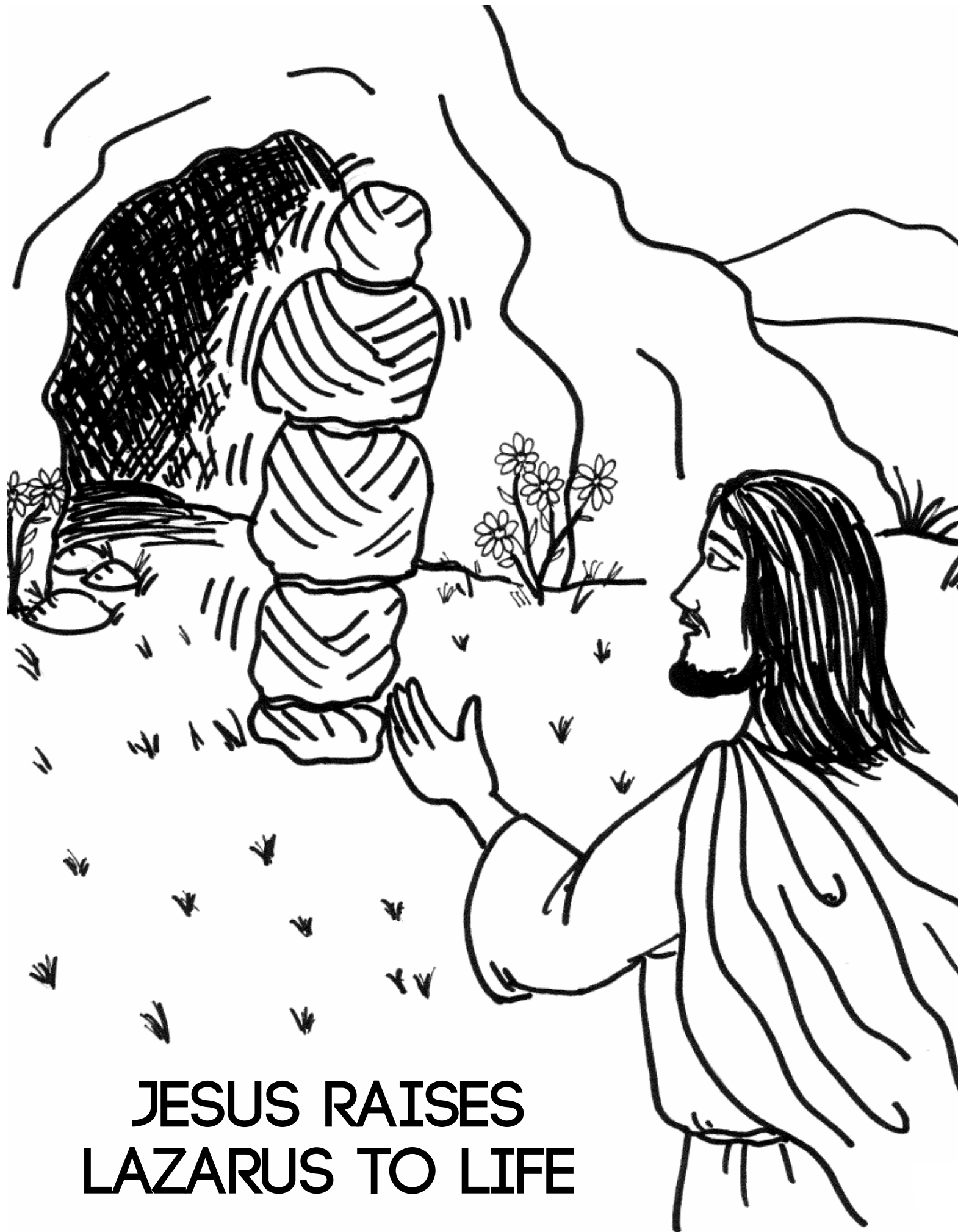
REMEMBERING

- 1. What close friend of Jesus died?** Lazarus
- 2. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived?** 4 days
- 3. What are Lazarus' two sister's names?** Mary and Martha
- 4. What were some of the human emotions Jesus expressed?** Anger, weeping
- 5. What did Jesus do for Lazarus and his two sisters?** He raised Lazarus from the dead!



COLORING SHEET

ON THE NEXT PAGE



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