

# JESUS RAISED THE DEAD



**Quarter 2: God the Son — Lesson 22**



## Year 1—Quarter 2: God the Son

### Jesus Raised the Dead

#### Bible Study: Lazarus

Today we are talking about Jesus raising the dead and the miracle that we are focusing on is about Lazarus. Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary, were friends of Jesus. When Lazarus became sick, Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus to come and heal their brother. After hearing the message, Jesus waited for a couple of days before going. By the time he got there Lazarus was dead. Jesus could have raised Lazarus from the dead immediately, but first he questioned Martha and Mary to see if they had faith. Mary responded, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." (John 11:7) Then Jesus called out in a loud voice "Lazarus come out" and the Lazarus walked out. (John 11:43) Lazarus had been dead for

4 days and the Bible says his body stunk, but Jesus had the power to raise him from the dead. Jesus has the power to not only raise the physically dead but the spiritually dead too.

Before we became Christians, we were dead spiritually. Ephesians 2:4-5 says "God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions." If we believe in Jesus we can have eternal life in Him (John 6:40). So if you are a Christian you have experienced Jesus' miraculous power first hand. Each and every person who believes in Jesus has been raised from the dead. Jesus has the power to raise people from the dead and He is still doing it today. You are a witness of Jesus' power and mercy because he raised you from the dead.

#### Power Point

**Jesus has power over death.**

#### MEMORY VERSE:

"I am the resurrection and the life." John 11:25

#### Drama: Human Video "Lazarus"

Pick out some children to silently act out the actions that are taking place in the song called "Lazarus Come Forth" by Carman (On YouTube). The characters needed, in order of appearance, are: Jesus, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, Gideon, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Solomon, Ezekiel, Job, Sampson, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jonah, Daniel, David, and Moses. Have Jesus, Mary, and Martha off to one side. The sisters should pretend to be crying. Then have the saints be in a line and have Lazarus in the middle of them. Moses will need a stick for a prop. Finish by having Lazarus walk to Jesus and everyone cheer.





### Small Group Discussion

**Read the Bible:** John chapter 11

**Ask this question:** Why did Jesus wait two more days before setting off for Bethany? (John 11:6)

**Discussion:** Allow your students to come up with their own ideas. Be ready to add to the discussion these additional ideas.

- If Lazarus died on the day the messenger left Bethany to find Jesus, and if he was placed in the tomb the same day in accordance with Jewish custom, then he would indeed have been dead for four days when Jesus arrived.
- Tradition also held that the soul lingered near the body for three days, and some speculate that Jesus deliberately timed his arrival for the day on which Lazarus' death would be "final."

Jesus' timing demonstrated beyond any question His absolute power over the grave.

- It must have looked like a scene from "The Mummy" as Lazarus came out with his hands and feet still wrapped in linen strips and a cloth around his face. As the assembled people stared in total disbelief, Jesus spoke up and told them to remove the grave clothes and set the poor guy loose.
- In light of such a miracle, many people immediately put their faith in Jesus. And from that day on, the religious leaders plotted to take Jesus' life. In addition, Lazarus had become a living testimony to what had happened, so the chief priests started looking for opportunities to kill him as well (John 12:10).

### Two More Resurrections:

Jesus performed numerous miracles to prove His authority over sickness and disease, and to demonstrate His power over nature. He didn't wander around with rampant disregard for the natural order of the world, but He showed that even the laws of nature could be altered when God determined to do so. And in three instances we know of, Jesus also displayed power over death itself.

Lazarus was one and **here are two others:** One day a synagogue official named Jairus went to Jesus with the urgent request to return to his home and heal his 12-year-old daughter, who was near death. On the way a group of men met them and told them not to bother — the girl had already died. At once Jesus told the distraught Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe." continuing to the house, they found it filled with mourners. Everyone was wailing and crying, but they

paused to laugh incredulously when Jesus declared that the child was only sleeping. Unperturbed, Jesus sent everyone from the room but Peter, James, John, and the girl's parents. Then he walked over to the girl, took her by the hand, and told her to get up. Immediately she stood up and began to walk around. Jesus told the astonished witnesses to fix the girl something to eat, and gave them strict orders not to let the story get around.

**Another time** Jesus was visiting a village called Nain, where he passed a funeral procession. The dead youth was the only son of a widowed woman. Jesus felt compassion for the woman and told her not to cry. He said, "young man, I say to you, get up." The former corpse sat up and started to talk. We have no idea what he said, but it must have been interesting.



## Jesus heals Jairus's daughter.

Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:40-56



# Take-Home

## Summary

### Bible Passages:

Jn. 11

### Main Point:

Jesus has power over death.

### Discuss:

Q: How long was Lazarus dead? (4 days)

Q: What were the names of Lazarus' sisters? (Mary & Martha)

Q: Why didn't Jesus immediately go and heal Lazarus? (Jesus' delay was part of God's plan to demonstrate His power and glory. Jn. 11:4)

**Gospel Connection:** Jesus showed that He has the power over death and can bring people back to life. Jesus is not only the One who can heal our bodies, but also the One who can give us eternal life. He is the Resurrection and the Life. When we believe in Jesus, we can have eternal life with Him in heaven.

## Explore the Bible

Read John 11.

**Point out that:** Before going to Lazarus' tomb, Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven. He thanked God for hearing Him and asked that God would glorify His name through this miracle. **Explain:** This showed Jesus' dependence on God and His trust in God's power.

**Then say:** Jesus is not only the One who can heal our bodies, but also the One who can give us eternal life. He is the Resurrection and the Life. When we believe in Jesus, we can have eternal life with Him in heaven.

## Journal Time

Have your child/children write answers to the following questions in their journals. (If they have no journals, consider helping them begin one.)

- What does this lesson teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this lesson teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in these passages to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in these passages to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this lesson help me to live on mission better?

## Apply and Pray

Create a simple tomb using a cardboard box or a paper bag. Wrap a small toy or a drawing of a person in "burial cloths" (construction paper or cloth strips). Have the kids pretend Jesus is calling out to the person inside the tomb, "Come out!" Then, have them unwrap the toy/person, symbolizing Lazarus' resurrection.

Ask kids to pray with you, thanking God for Jesus' power over death and His promise of eternal life. Encourage them to trust in Jesus and ask Him to be their Savior and Lord.