Lesson 11 [Chapter 11]"Lazarus, Come Forth!"

Remember:

Last lesson, Jesus said He was the "Good Shepherd" and the "door" to the sheepfold, showing His sacrificial love, protection, and provision of abundant, eternal life for His followers.

Lesson Goal:

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, He has absolute authority over death, and He grants eternal life to those who believe in Him.

Lesson opener:

The "Who's in Control" Lottery:

Make out as many slips of paper with the number "8" on them as the number of children in your class. Put them in a bowl and have each child draw one out. Instruct them to be careful not to let anyone else see their number.

Tell your class that you are going to pick a number and whoever has the corresponding slip will win a prize. Tell the class that if their number is called, they must jump up and shout, "I win! I win!" Pick the number "8."

Explain to your class that the reason everybody won was because you had complete control of the game. You wrote out the numbers, you chose the prize and you picked the winning number. Everyone was a winner because you were in control of the situation.

In today's lesson we will learn that Jesus is in control of every situation and He had great compassion too. Pass out to each member of your class a small prize.

Or GRAVE CLOTHES RACE:

Toilet paper, trash bag (for cleanup)

Provide each Team with 2-4 rolls of toilet paper and instruct them to designate who will be "Lazarus" for their Team. When you say "Go," the children in the Team will wrap Lazarus from neck to feet, going around and around their body with the toilet paper roll.

When Lazarus is covered with "grave clothes," instruct all the students to stand around Lazarus in a circle. One by one, let each student recite today's Memory verse. When a student says it correctly, that student may unwrap part of Lazarus. Once everyone has said

the Memory verse correctly, tell Lazarus that he or she may break free from the grave clothes.

Lesson Body:



Lazarus was very sick.

His sisters, Mary and Martha, took good care of him, but he was not getting any better.

They were very worried.

They sent a message to tell Jesus his friend was sick.

1

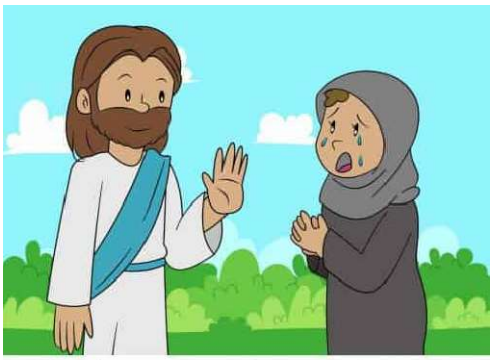


Jesus was away preaching.

When the message arrived, he told his disciples not to worry.

He stayed there for two more days before going to Bethany to see Lazarus.

2



Martha ran out to see Jesus.

She told Him that it was too late. Lazarus had died.

Jesus told her, "Don't worry, your brother will rise again."

Martha did not understand.

3



Jesus ordered the stone to be removed from the tomb.

Jesus prayed and then called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus walked out of the cave alive.

Everyone was amazed, and many believed in Jesus.

4

The raising of Lazarus occurred on the Saturday preceding the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. Thus, this event took place a short while just before the last week of the life of Jesus on earth. The miracle is not recorded in the other three Gospels.

Informing the Lord that Lazarus is Sick 11:1-16

Now a certain man named Lazarus, who was a friend of Jesus and the brother of Mary and Martha, was sick. Jesus often stayed at their home when visiting the town of Bethany. The sisters sent a message to Jesus, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard the news, He purposefully didn't hurry in making His way to Bethany.

Jesus knew Lazarus was dead. Jesus knows all things. Jesus was not happy about it, but He was glad for His followers to see what was about to happen; that the upcoming event would help affirm that Jesus is God's son. After a few days, Jesus made His way to Bethany.

At first glance these verses seem to show Jesus as being out of touch with the reality of Lazarus' situation. Verse 5 tells us again that Jesus loved Lazarus, but when He heard he was sick, He stayed in the place where He was for two more days, instead of going to His sick friend! Don't you think He should have rushed over there? Well, remember that Jesus is in control of every situation.

Jesus had a good reason for not going right away. He would raise Lazarus from the dead, but He would do it in God's perfect timing. By waiting, an opportunity for Jesus to demonstrate His power over death was made possible, and Jesus was able to give another lesson of faith to His disciples. We may not always understand God's timing, but rest assured, He is in control of every situation!

The disciples were like you and me. They doubted a lot at first. They often forgot who Jesus really was and what He desired to do in their lives. Jesus was going to use the death of Lazarus to strengthen His disciples' faith and remind them that He is the Master of every situation. The disciples knew that the Jews were angry with Jesus, and they were seeking to kill Him. Going to Bethany would be taking them closer to these angry Jews. But Jesus knew all of that and was not afraid. Jesus is in control of every situation.

Jesus said Lazarus was just sleeping. The word sleep is often used in scripture to mean the death of a believer. The disciples got confused and thought if Lazarus had been sick and was now resting that he was getting better and they did not have to go. Jesus had to tell them plainly "Lazarus is dead." He lets His disciples know that He will use the death of Lazarus as an opportunity to strengthen their faith and show them that He is in control of every situation.

The Lord travels towards the home of Lazarus family 11:17- 33

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, He found that Lazarus had already been buried in a tomb for four days. Many people had arrived to comfort Mary and Martha. They were grieving over their brother's death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary stayed at home.

As students follow along in their Bibles, ask two volunteers to read the conversation between Martha and Jesus recorded in John 11:21-27. Ask one volunteer to read Martha's words and the other volunteer to read Jesus' words.

If Jesus had been with Lazarus during the final moments of Lazarus' life, He might have healed him rather than let him die. Jesus knew that He Himself would raise Lazarus from the dead. Jesus wanted Mary and Martha to grow their faith in Jesus as the only one who can restore life here on this earth and for eternity. They had not yet realized that Jesus is present everywhere. They believed that His presence could have prevented death from touching their brother. Martha believed that if the Lord prayed for anything, He would get it. She dared not ask Him to resurrect her brother.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." [25] By these words, the Lord revealed His authority. He revealed that He did not need anyone to help Him since He Himself is the life.

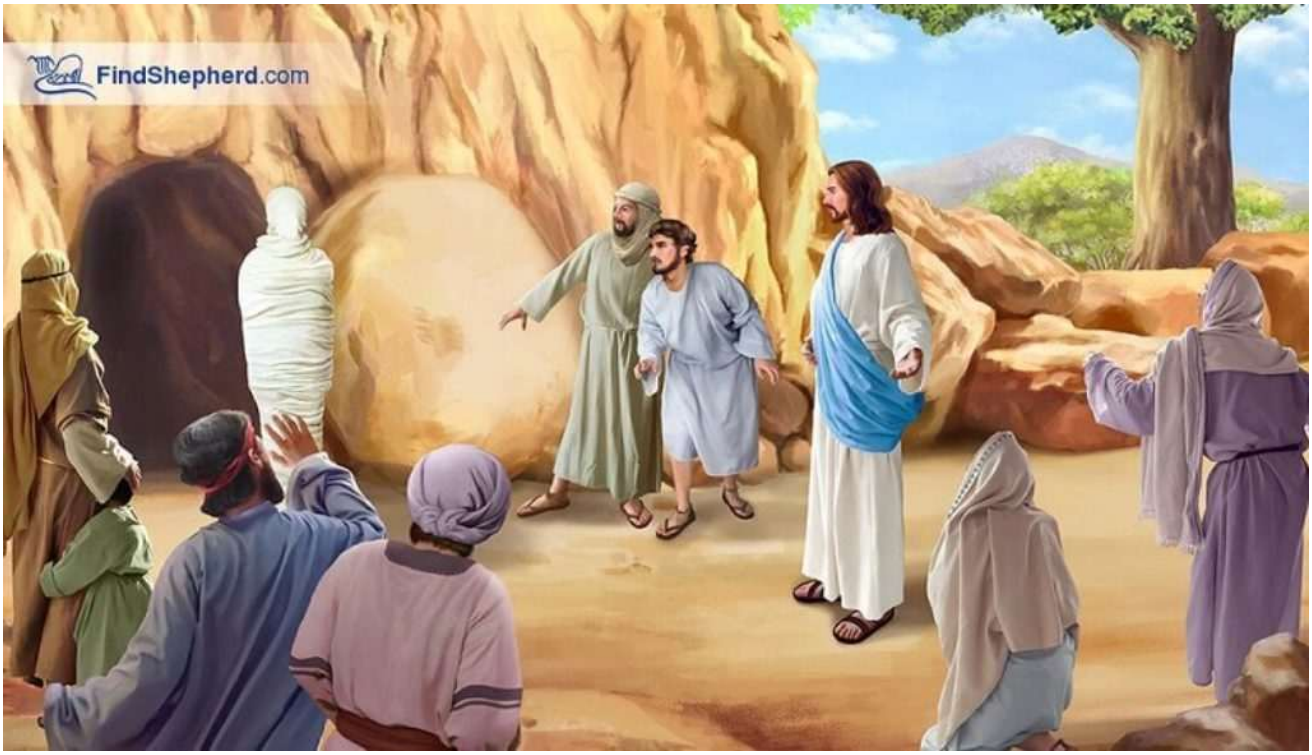
When Mary heard Jesus had arrived, she went quickly to Him and fell down at His feet, crying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw how sad Mary was and all the people who were crying with her, He was moved with compassion. Jesus asked, "Where have you buried Lazarus' body?" They replied, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. The people could see how much Jesus loved Lazarus.

Jesus is a Savior who cares about every detail of your life. In these verses, we read that Jesus was overcome with emotion and He wept, not just cried, but He wept. Jesus empathized with the grief and sadness of His friends. You can know Jesus has compassion and He cares for you enough to weep with you in your sorrow.

Raising Lazarus from the dead 11: 34- 44

We see Martha voice her unbelief here. She does not simply watch in belief, knowing that Jesus is in control of every situation. She tells Jesus that Lazarus has been dead and buried for four days. His body would be starting to decay, and it would stink very badly if they opened the tomb. Jesus reminds her to believe and watch what He does. He reminds us of that, too. We are reminded by Jesus to believe His Word no matter how discouraging or hopeless the circumstances might appear.

Jesus reminds us, as He did Martha, that we must live by faith and not by sight. No matter how it may look (or smell!), Jesus is in control of every situation. We just need to believe Him and watch what He does. Verse 43 shows us what a powerful God we have. If He can conquer death, then He is God indeed.



Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42, And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Lazarus, still wrapped up in burial cloths, walked out of the tomb. Jesus brought Lazarus back to life! Jesus commanded them to take off Lazarus' burial clothes and let him go. Lazarus had been dead four days – FOUR WHOLE DAYS! However, Jesus, in full power and control, simply called him by name, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Just imagine that for a minute – a man who was dead, already laid in a tomb, was called back to life by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This amazing story shows Jesus' power and might AND His care and compassion.

Effects of raising Lazarus from the dead 11:45- 57

Many of the family's Jewish friends believed in Him. Most of them came from Jerusalem, which is the nearest city to the village of Bethany.

God is a God of 'Big Picture', and the Biggest Picture is as many as possible coming to the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

The chief priests and Pharisees recognized that they could not oppose or deny the truth for the miracle just shouted it out. However, they wished to kill the One who had resurrected the dead.

Caiaphas, the high priest said that Jesus should die for the nation to be saved.

God uses even the evil of the high priest to give testimony for the truth. Moreover, his words predict the redeeming work of Christ for the Jews as well as for God's children all over the world: both Jews and Gentiles.

Lesson Takeaway:

Because Jesus has shown such compassion to you, there are many ways you can show compassion to others. Open your eyes and watch the people around you. You'll see people needing compassion on the playground, in your classroom, in the cafeteria, on the bus and in your home. If you ask God to show you those around you that need compassion, He will help you see those people. The greatest way we can show compassion is to tell others about how God showed us compassion by sending His Son!

The same power that raised Lazarus from the dead and raised Jesus from the dead is mighty enough to save us from sins. His compassion gives all people a chance to accept His free gift of eternal life. It's as simple as A-B-C. All you have to do is ASK, BELIEVE and CHOOSE TO FOLLOW.

Memory Verse: 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. In what book of the Bible was today's story found? (John)
2. Recite today's Memory Link. (John 11:25)
3. What did Jesus do when He found out Lazarus was sick? (He stayed where He was a few more days)
4. How did Jesus show compassion after Lazarus died? (He cared for the sisters; He wept)
5. How did Jesus bring Lazarus back to life? (He spoke)
6. What was Lazarus wearing when He came back to life? (grave clothes)
7. How does Jesus show compassion to us? (by dying on the cross for our sin)
8. Name one way you can show compassion to others.

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS ACTIVITY PLACEMAT

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

VERSE TO REMEMBER:

"I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in Me will never die."

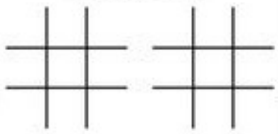
— John 11:25-26

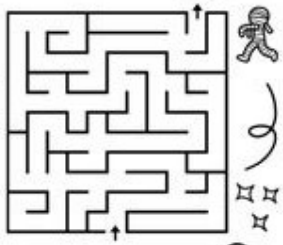


COUNT ALL THE LAZARUS!



"TIC-TAC-TOE!"

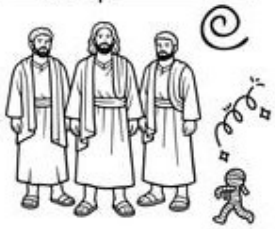




"DID YOU KNOW?"

The shortest verse in the Bible is ***"Jesus wept."*** — *John 11:35.* It is found in the story of Lazarus, showing that Jesus felt deep love and compassion even though He knew He would raise Lazarus from the dead.





"WORD SEARCH!"

Can You Find the Hidden Words?

V	R	S	D	F	C	I	O	J
U	B	M	I	R	A	C	L	E
J	E	F	R	I	E	N	D	S
D	T	Q	C	A	P	L	M	U
E	H	R	F	A	I	T	H	S
L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	Q	W
A	N	D	X	B	L	U	E	R
Y	Y	E	V	M	K	Y	T	D

- BETHANY
- DELAY
- LAZARUS
- FAITH
- MIRACLE
- JESUS
- FRIEND
- RAISED

"TRUE OR FALSE!"

Put a ✓ if True or ✗ if False

_____ **1.** Lazarus was alive when Jesus arrived.

_____ **2.** Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb.

_____ **3.** Jesus prayed to the Father before calling Lazarus.

_____ **4.** Lazarus had been dead for four days.

_____ **5.** Lazarus, along with his sisters Martha and Mary, was a friend of Jesus.

_____ **6.** Jesus went to Judea even though it was dangerous.

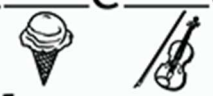
"HELP JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES TRAVEL TO JUDEA!"

Jesus heard that His friend Lazarus was sick, so He told His disciples to go back to Judea, even though it was dangerous. When they arrived, Lazarus had already been dead for four days, and his sisters were very sad. Jesus wept and prayed, then called Lazarus out of the tomb. Lazarus came back to life, showing Jesus' power over death.

Name _____

Memory Verse Code

Use the code below to fill in the blanks and complete the verse.

Jesus  to he, " am the   ection and the lfe. Whoe bel n me, though he de, yet hall he l e."

John 11:25

Key: =I =R =S =V