

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

John 11:1-46



New Testament 2
Part 1: Miracles Show Jesus' Great Power

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 2 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

John 11:1-46

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Jesus wept" (John 11:35).

OLDER CHILDREN: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" (John 11:25).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Mary, Martha, and Lazarus"](#)
- ["God is Listening"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Miracles & Teachings of Jesus](#) Bible fact cards (provided under "N.T. 2 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
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- AP's short videos, "[Jesus and Miracles](#)" and "[6 Reasons to Believe in Jesus](#)" by Kyle Butt and "[One Proof of God: Jesus](#)" by Eric Lyons
- Have a Bible-times house and a tomb model in a sandbox. Use popsicle stick puppets. See www.msscrafter.com/crafts/bibletimeshouse/index.htm for ideas.



- **Later Ministry of Jesus A Beka picture set (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; skip card CD 4.3)**

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: Jesus cares and understands when I am sad.

OLDER CHILDREN: Jesus cares about me and understands how I feel when someone I love dies.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

When Jesus was here on Earth, He was like us in that He felt happy, hungry, and tired. He even felt sad sometimes, like we do.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

It's easy to forget that when Jesus was on Earth, He was human and had human feelings. (Discuss some of the feelings He had, e.g., hunger, pain, being tired, happy, etc.) There were even times when He felt sad. Because of this, He understands how we feel when we are sad.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

(Preschool teachers: summarize, in accordance with your students' cognitive level.)

1. Since Jesus traveled from place to place preaching and helping people, He often depended on the kindness and hospitality of people for food and shelter. One place He often stopped was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (They were brother and sisters.), in the small village of **Bethany**. [Luke 10:38-39 tells us that "Martha welcomed Him into her house."]



NOTE: Bethany—a small village about two miles east of Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives. It was also the home of Simon the leper (Matthew 26:6-13), and Jesus' ascension took place near there (Luke 24:50-51). Today it is a small, poor, agricultural village.

2. Lazarus became very sick, and his worried sisters sent for their friend Jesus. But Jesus did not go to Bethany right away. He loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus very much, but He waited two days before heading toward their home. He told His disciples that Lazarus was "asleep," but they did not understand. Finally, He told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."
3. By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been dead four days. There were still many people at Mary and Martha's home, trying to comfort them. [After a close relative's death, family members spent seven days at home mourning and being visited by friends. This was called "shivah."] When Jesus arrived, the sisters told Him that if He had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Martha said to Jesus that she believed that "whatever You ask of God, God will give You" (vs. 22). [Notice Martha's statements of faith in verses 24 and 27.] Their friends could only weep. Jesus was the only One who could really help.
4. Jesus was very sad when He saw how upset the sisters and their friends were. When He was taken to the grave, Jesus cried, sharing Mary and Martha's sorrow and understanding their pain better than anyone. [The depth of Jesus' emotions is shown in verses 33, 35, and 38.]

5. Lazarus had been buried in a cave with a great stone rolled in front of the opening. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” But Martha didn’t think that was a good idea because Lazarus had been in the tomb so long. She thought it would smell terrible in the tomb. When the stone was rolled away, Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father. He wanted this miracle to prove to the crowd, and to the two sisters, Who He was, and He wanted to praise God.
6. Jesus called out to Lazarus, telling him to come out of the tomb. Suddenly, Lazarus walked out, wrapped in burial cloths. Jesus told those around him to take off the strips of fabric and “set him free.” Because of this miracle [the 7th recorded by John], many more people believed Jesus was God’s Son, and many people praised God. [But some were jealous of Jesus and began to look for ways to get rid of Him (11:46-53).]
7. When someone dies, we are sad and hurt, just like Mary and Martha were. Jesus cares about our sorrow and will help us during sad times, just as He helped them. We have other people and God’s Word to comfort us, and we can talk to God in prayer when we are sad and hurting. From our experiences, we learn to comfort and help others (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).



HISTORICAL NOTE: In New Testament times, burial had to take place quickly because the hot temperatures of Palestine would accelerate body decomposition. The body was usually washed, wrapped loosely (by women) in strips of linen cloth, and carried to the burial place on a stretcher of some kind. Burial could take place in a natural or man-made cave (“sepulcher” or “tomb”). The entrance to the cave was sealed with a disc-shaped or round stone placed in a sloped groove. Bodies were not often buried in the hard ground. Some (mainly the wealthy) had their bodies covered in a paste made of spices, which was held to the body by layers of fabric strips. As the paste hardened and soaked into the bandages, a preservative mould formed around the body. A cap was put on the head, and the jaw was often closed by a bandage under the chin. After a year, the family would go back to the tomb and gather the bones, which would then be put into a niche in the wall of the tomb.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Reincarnation and the Bible](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the suggestion that belief in reincarnation is compatible with Scripture.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Keys](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Help the kids make cards for the sick and shut-ins.
- Let the kids role play the story.
- Have the children draw faces on paper plates, adding felt “tear drops.”
- Have the kids wrap up a doll in “grave cloths” like a mummy.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Help the kids make cards for the sick and shut-ins.
- Let the kids role play the story.
- Use a wall map to show where Bethany is located.
- Have the kids wrap up a doll in “grave cloths” like a mummy.
- [“Jesus Raises Lazarus Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
 - *Jesus Raises Lazarus*, by Crystal Bowman, Zonderkidz “I Can Read!” Series
 - *Jesus Does Miracles and Heals People*, Contemporary Bible Series, Scandinavia Publishing House, pp. 46-49

3th-4th Graders:

- Let the kids make cards for the sick and shut-ins.
- Learning center made from *Discovery* magazine for kids, [February, 2000](#).
- Use a wall map to show where Bethany is located.
- [“Jesus Raises Lazarus Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead Fill in the Blank Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read:
 - *Discovery* magazine issues (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): [August, 2021](#); “Jesus Raised Lazarus From the Dead” ([February, 2000](#))
 - John 11
 - *Get Up, Lazarus!* by Jonathan Schkade, Arch Book

SONGS:

“MARY, MARTHA, AND LAZARUS” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook (adapted)
(Tune: “More, More about Jesus”)

Now about Martha let us tell; she liked to serve her company well,
But Mary chose the better part; she loved the Lord with all her heart.

CHORUS:

O how they did love Him! O how they did love Him!
O how they loved the Savior so, Mary and Martha, long ago.

Their brother, Lazarus, got sick one day, while the Master was gone away;
When He returned, Lazarus had died, and with the sisters, Jesus cried.

(CHORUS)

“Lazarus, come forth,” the Savior said; Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
“Loose him now and let him go!” O He did love his three friends so!

(CHORUS)

“GOD IS LISTENING” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Lora Laycook
(Tune: “Frère Jacques”)

God is listening, God is listening, (put your hand to your ear)
While we pray, while we pray, (put hands together as if to pray)
Bow your head so lightly, (bow your head)
Close your eyes so tightly, (close your eyes)
Let us pray, let us pray.

***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE
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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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INTRODUCTION:

- Briefly review Sunday morning’s lesson (see [N.T. 2 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
- [N.T. 2 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 2 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. [Teachers of pre-school children may want to either spend the class time reviewing and doing activities or discussing Dorcas or the widow of Nain’s son instead of discussing points 2 and 3. (NOTE: Jairus’ daughter is lesson 5.)]
2. What happens when we die? God has given each of us a soul that will never die. I can’t see your soul, and you can’t see mine. The soul is the spiritual part of us (the part of us that is like God) that causes us to think and feel. When we die, our bodies stop working and are usually buried in graves, but our souls live on forever.
3. Some day our souls will go to heaven to live with God forever (if we die while we are still children or if we die as Christians when we are grown-ups). Many times people get very sick before they die. But in heaven, our souls will never be sick, sad, hungry, lonely, or afraid. Heaven is the perfect place for everyone who tries to obey God while they’re living on Earth.
4. Lazarus, the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:22-34), and the widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11-16) were all raised from the dead by Jesus. Dorcas was raised from the dead (with power from God) by Peter (Acts 9:36-43). But all of these people eventually died again. Jesus was the only person to rise from the dead never to die again. We want to do everything we can to live for Jesus in this life so that when we die, we can go to heaven to live with Jesus, and Lazarus, and many other great people of faith.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson

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