

Jesus Raised Lazarus

Bible Passage: John 11:1-7,17-44

Main Point: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Key Passage: Psalm 103:2-3

Watch this week's IDC Kids Online Video

Review Question

Which of Jesus' friends got sick? (*Lazarus, John 11:1*)

Who were Lazarus's sisters? (*Mary and Martha; John 11:1,21,32*)

How much longer did Jesus stay in the place where He was? (*two days, John 11:6*)

What happened to Lazarus while Jesus was away? (*Lazarus died, John 11:14*)

How long had Lazarus been in the tomb when Jesus arrived? (*four days, John 11:17*)

Which sister came to meet Jesus right away? (*Martha, John 11:20*)

Who did Jesus say He is? (*the resurrection and the life, John 11:25*)

What did Martha believe about Jesus? (*He is the Messiah, the Son of God; John 11:27*)

What did Jesus shout? (*"Lazarus, come out!" John 11:43*)

Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? (*Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death, John 11:4*)

Learn the Big Picture Question

What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Practice the Key Passage

Read Psalm 103:2-3. Encourage kids to practice it throughout the week and memorize it.

Activities

Sad or happy?

Gather the kids to the center of the room. Read different scenarios and invite the kids to act out being happy or sad depending on the situation. Encourage them to ham it up and be silly.

Examples:

You won first prize at a dance competition.

Your baseball team lost every game.

You skinned your knee while climbing a tree.

You got invited to your friend's birthday party.

Say •Our Bible story today starts with sad news and ends with a happy event.

What's that smell?

Bring in multiple strongly scented items, like vanilla extract, lemon oil, or cocoa powder. Bring one stinky object, like pungent cheese, a dirty sock, or malt vinegar. Put each item in an opaque container with a lid. Allow kids to come up, put on a blindfold, and smell one of the items in question. If the kid cannot guess what it is, give other kids a chance to smell it. If she guesses it correctly, take it out and show everyone the item.

Say • Smells can communicate different things to us. Vanilla might make you think of cookies or ice cream. Something that stinks might warn you to stay away, like a skunk! In our Bible story today, we learned about something people did not want to open because what was inside was stinky. What do you think it could be?

Just in time

Invite the kids to sit in a circle with their legs crossed. Each kid should rest his hands on his knees with his palms up. Each kid's left hand will be under the right hand of the kid sitting to his left. Choose a kid to go first. She will use her right hand to gently clap the right hand of the kid to her left, while leading the kids to chant a rhyme. The clapping will pass around the circle in rhythm with the chant. When the last word, *out*, is spoken, the last kid will attempt to clap the hand of the kid to his left. If that kid pulls her hand away quickly enough, she is safe and he is out. If he claps her hand, she is out. Restart the game and play until there is only one kid remaining.

Rhyme:

“Down in the town of Bethany
Where Mary and Martha liked to be
Laz'rus's death made people pout
'Til Jesus said to him, 'Come out!'”

Say • In our game, you needed perfect timing to make sure your hand didn't get slapped. In our story, Jesus displayed His perfect timing, but not by rushing to heal Lazarus. Jesus waited two more days before traveling to Bethany. When He arrived, He showed everyone His power and glory by raising Lazarus from the dead. Jesus' timing is always perfect, even when we don't understand it. Jesus died on the cross at just the right time to save people from sin.

Talk about life

At the front of the room, draw a Venn diagram to compare signs of physical life with signs of spiritual life through Jesus. As you discuss the ways they are similar and different, invite kids to act out some of the signs they are suggesting.

Say •Our Bible story does a good job of showing the difference between physical life and spiritual life. Lazarus had died due to a physical sickness. **Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.** Jesus spoke to Martha and said that He is the resurrection and the life. He explained that people who believe in Him live even if they die. He was talking about spiritual life with God! When we trust Jesus, He takes away our sin and God gives us Jesus' righteousness. We are then spiritually alive with new hearts that love and want to obey Him. Physical life is a gift from God, but it eventually ends. Spiritual life is an even greater gift from God, and it never ends!