

Life of Christ

Lazarus is alive!

John 11:1-45

Younger Verse

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

Older Verse

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. John 11:25

Lesson Goals

See what it means to really care for others and understand when they are hurting
Understand how we can have a new life by believing in Jesus

Welcome Time

Welcome each child--make sure that positive words are spoken (I know sometimes it's hard!) Ask the kids if they have ever been really sad about something or felt sad for someone else who was hurting. Share a new word with them today—empathy. Explain that today's story shows how Jesus showed empathy when His friend died.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

While Jesus was telling people about God, Mary and Martha, two of Jesus' friends, sent a note asking Jesus to come to their home because their brother, Lazarus, was very sick. But Jesus did not come immediately.

Jesus loved His friends but instead of going to their house, He waited two more days. He knew that something wonderful would happen when He arrived.

After two days, Jesus and His friends traveled to Mary and Martha's house. Jesus told his friends that Lazarus had died. They were very sad.

When they arrived, friends and family were comforting Mary and Martha. They had wrapped Lazarus' body in cloth and placed him in a grave four days earlier.

Finally someone shouted, "Jesus is coming." Martha ran to talk to Him. She said, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died. But even now, I know that God will give You anything You ask."

Jesus spoke words of comfort to her: "Your brother will live again. I am the life. Whoever believes in Me shall never die."

Martha told Jesus that she believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

Soon Mary came to talk with Jesus. As she talked about her brother, Mary began to cry. Many of her friends were crying also.

Jesus also cried. He cared so deeply for His friends and He understood the pain they were feeling. When the people saw Jesus crying, they said, "Look; see how much Jesus loved His friend."

Jesus went to the place where Lazarus was buried. "Roll away the stone," He commanded.

Martha was surprised. She said, "But Lord, it will smell bad because he has been in there for 4 days!"

Jesus reminded her that she would see a miracle if she believed.

The people removed the stone. Jesus looked up and thanked God for hearing Him. Then He called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

Suddenly Lazarus came out of the grave. He was alive! Jesus had raised him from the dead.

The people were amazed. Many people believed in Jesus because of what they saw him do.

Jesus showed empathy to Mary and Martha. Empathy means that someone cares for others when they are hurt and may even feel their pain. They have love for them and want to help them in their time of sadness. Jesus felt this way about His friends. In fact, the Bible tells us that others saw Jesus' empathy and knew that He really loved His friends.

There was another time when Jesus loved people. It was when He was on a rough, wooden cross. He loved us so much that He died on the cross for all the bad things we have done. Did you know that someone loved you THAT much! If we believe in Him, we can go to Heaven and be with Jesus. Would you like to do this? Talk to us during activity time.

Learning Activities

Use activities to help the kids see what it means to show empathy to others.

Memory Verse Activities

Make a concentration game of the memory verse. Cut out each word of the verse and turn it over on the table (you will need to make 2 sets). Let each person try to find the first word and the matching word in the cards. Continue until all are uncovered.

Prayer Time

Pray and ask God to give everyone understanding of others' feelings. Ask Him to help us be kind to everyone.

Snack Time/CleanUp

If you have an oven, it may be fun to bake something.

Planning for September 8th
Why do bad things happen to good people?
John is beheaded
Matt. 14:1-15; Mk. 6; Lk. 9

Preschool Lesson
for
Lazarus is alive!

While Jesus was telling people about God, Mary and Martha, two of Jesus' friends, sent a note asking Jesus to come to their home because their brother, Lazarus, was very sick. (Have a piece of paper as a prop)

Jesus loved His friends but instead of going to their house, He waited two more days. He knew that something wonderful would happen when He arrived.

After two days, Jesus and His friends traveled to Mary and Martha's house. Jesus told his friends that Lazarus had died. They were very sad.

When they arrived, friends and family were comforting Mary and Martha. They had wrapped Lazarus' body in cloth and placed him in a grave four days earlier. (Count to 4 on your fingers)

Finally someone shouted, "Jesus is coming." Martha ran to talk to Him. (Make a running noise) She said, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died. But even now, I know that God will give You anything You ask."

Jesus spoke kind words to her: "Your brother will live again. I am the life. Whoever believes in Me shall never die."

Martha told Jesus that she believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

Soon Mary came to talk with Jesus. As she talked about her brother, Mary began to cry. Many of her friends were crying also. (Make crying noises)

Jesus also cried. He cared so deeply for His friends and He understood the pain they were feeling. When the people saw Jesus crying, they said, "Look; see how much Jesus loved His friend."

Jesus went to the place where Lazarus was buried. "Roll away the stone," He commanded.

Martha was surprised. She said, "But Lord, it will smell bad because he has been in there for 4 days!" (Hold your nose and say, "Pee-you")

Jesus reminded her that she would see a miracle if she believed.

The people removed the stone. Jesus looked up and thanked God for hearing Him. Then He called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

Suddenly Lazarus came out of the grave. He was alive! Jesus had raised him from the dead.

The people were amazed. Many people believed in Jesus because of what they saw him do.

Pray and thank God for loving us. Thank Him that He understands when we are sad or lonely.

Hands-on Ideas
for
Lazarus is alive!

Play the game “All Wrapped Up.” (attached sheet)

Make the “Lazarus Leaper” to show how Lazarus came out of the grave.

Color and cut out the Lazarus card. Slide Lazarus out of the grave when Jesus says, “Lazarus, come out!”

Assemble the accordion booklet that tells the story. Encourage them to take it home and show friends or family.

Bring a bandage roll. Take turns acting out the story and wrap each other in the bandage. (You can use toilet paper as a substitute.)

Ask the kids what it means to have empathy for someone. Share how they can encourage someone who is sad and help them know that Jesus loves them.

What did Jesus do before Lazarus came out? He prayed. Challenge your kids to pray everyday this week. Let them make little charts to help them remember. Ask them next week how their week was.