

Life of Christ

Lazarus Lives!

John 11:1-45

Younger Verse

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

Older Verse

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies." John 11:25

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Who are some of your closest friends? (Allow your students to name a few.) Jesus had close friends, too. Jesus met many people. Many people followed Him. Twelve men walked with Him the last few years of His life, but there were a few who were closer to Him than others. Three of Jesus' close friends were Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They were brother and sisters. They lived in a small town named Bethany. There were many times during Jesus' life that He stayed in their home and ate with them.* Jesus loved them.

* Luke 10:38-42,
John 12:1-11,
Matthew 21:17,

The Bible tells us that while Jesus and His disciples were in another place, Jesus received a message that Lazarus was very sick. In fact, by the time Jesus received the message, Lazarus was almost dead. What would you do if you found out that a friend was really sick? Would you try to visit them? I would, too. In the lessons we have seen from the Bible so far, does Jesus usually do what we would do? Does He say what we might say? NO! Jesus understands things that we cannot understand. In Lazarus' case, Jesus knew that Lazarus would die, and instead of rushing to visit him one last time, or even healing him, Jesus waited. Jesus waited one day. Jesus waited a second day. Jesus did not wait because He really did not care for Lazarus. He waited because He knew what was best. Jesus not only knew what was best for Lazarus; He knew what was best so that people could believe in God. So, after two days, Jesus left for Bethany with His disciples.

Before Jesus even arrived in town, Martha met Him on the road. Martha knew Jesus. She knew how powerful Jesus was. The first thing Martha said to Jesus was, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!" Martha knew that Jesus had the power to heal her brother, but now he was dead. Jesus tried to prepare her for what He was going to do. But, Martha could not see past what she already knew of Jesus. She knew He could heal a sick person, but she couldn't believe what He would do next.

Martha went and whispered to her sister Mary that Jesus had come. Mary went to meet Him and was followed by all of the people who had come to

Lesson Goals

To introduce God's power, not only over health, but even over death.
To learn to expect big things from God.

sit with them. When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet and said the same thing her sister had said. They both realized that Jesus could heal the sick. Mary was crying. When Jesus saw her crying, as well as the people who had followed her, He was saddened and wanted to know where they had buried Lazarus. Jesus cried. Some of the people who had followed Mary talked about how much Jesus loved Lazarus, but others had the same kinds of thoughts as Martha and Mary. These people said, "If He could make a blind man see, surely He could have healed Lazarus."

They arrived at the cave where Lazarus had been buried. It had a large stone to cover it, and Jesus asked them to remove it. Martha was worried about the smell, but Jesus reminded her to believe in something big! Jesus prayed and then shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" Then, an amazing thing happened! Lazarus, the one who had died, came out of the cave still wrapped up in the strips of cloth they had buried him in. They unwrapped him. Then another wonderful thing happened. The people who had come to see Mary, to sit with her and cry with her, believed in Jesus that day, just like the townspeople in Samaria who came to see Jesus because of the woman at the well.

Many thought Jesus would heal Lazarus before he died. They could not understand why He didn't. Jesus wanted them to see that He could do more than just heal a sick body. He can raise people from the dead! Jesus knew that they would need to know this in just a few weeks. He was going to die. It would be another death He could have stopped. He would not stay dead, though. He would live again! Jesus had said something to Martha. Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies." Jesus meant that even though everyone will die one day, there is a way for us to live again - in heaven. The way to do that is to believe in Jesus. Do you believe in Him? Will you today?

**Memory Verse
Activities**

Make an "Empty Tomb." Use 1/2 of a paper plate for each student. Adhere a large, black construction paper circle midway across near the bottom. Decorate with tissue paper, construction paper, markers, etc. to resemble rock. Print the memory verse across the bottom.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for friends. Thank Him for the promise of life with Him one day!

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 25
Jesus Will Die for Everyone
John 11:45-53

Preschool Lesson

I Can Be A Friend Like Jesus!

Sing: to the tune of “Jingle Bells”

Lazarus, Lazarus, he was Jesus' friend
He got sick and died one day
Jesus raised him back again!

Teach: I open my Bible. What do I read? Jesus had friends.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were Jesus' friends. Jesus went to their house. Jesus visited with them many times. Martha had cooked meals for Jesus. Mary and Lazarus had sat with Jesus and listened to Him teach. They loved each other the way friends do.

One day, while Jesus was away, Lazarus became very sick. Jesus could have come and healed Lazarus, but He did not. Jesus had a better idea! Lazarus died, but that was in Jesus' plan. By the time Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been dead four days.

Instead of just visiting with Mary and Martha and making them feel better, Jesus asked to see the cave where Lazarus had been buried. Then, Jesus asked them to move the big stone that was covering the hole in the cave. And then, Jesus shouted “LAZARUS, COME OUT!” And Lazarus came out of the cave still wrapped up in strips of cloth! Lazarus was alive! Jesus helped Lazarus.

Jesus had friends. He helped His friends.

Who are your friends? How can you help them today? What can you do this week to help them?

Pray: Thank you, God, for friends. Thank you for teaching me how to be a good friend.

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Have a “Toilet Paper Relay.” (Toilet paper resembles the bandages that were wrapped around Lazarus.) Form two teams, in single file lines. Give each team a roll of toilet paper. Begin at the front passing the toilet paper over, then under, then over, until the final student. The team that finishes first, wins.
- Reenact the story. Using a large cardboard box, cut out a large circle (and save as stone). Wrap a student in sheets or toilet paper to prepare Lazarus to be buried.
- Play friendship games. Talk about Jesus’ friendship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus.
- The name Lazarus is an abbreviation of Eleazar, meaning, "God has helped". Children love to know the meaning of their name. Have a “Baby Names” book available or look each up on-line. Finding an applicable Bible verse would also be nice. Allow them to make posters of their names. Provide large sheets of construction paper, glitter, puff paints, sequins, markers, ribbon, etc.
- Sing “Shake a Friend’s Hand,” “A Little Square Box,” “Where Do I Go?,” “Make New Friends.”