

March 4, 2018

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Jesus Wakes Up Lazarus*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

Today our children learn about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This is a powerful miracle, especially as we make our way toward Easter, in that Jesus brings someone back to life. Our lessons this month will take us to Jerusalem and eventually Golgotha. But that will not be the end for Jesus, nor for us. Jesus tells Martha, and us, that He is the Resurrection and the Life. He brings dead things back to life. The question we face, as did Martha, is do we believe this? Do we believe the power of Jesus to make us alive? The story on its own possesses some unique aspects. One is the foreshadowing of Jesus' own death on the horizon. Jesus raises Lazarus, but immediately His death is planned by the Pharisees. Another is Jesus' emotion on display; we see both sorrow and fury. This shows us that Jesus is not only fully human, but He hates Death and what it does. Another way to think about it is Jesus is anti-Death, He is life. The gospel's power to make dead people alive cannot be understated or taught. As George Herbert is noted for saying, "Death used to be an executioner, but the gospel has made him just a gardener." Thanks be to God.

**Scripture:** John 11:1-53

**Story:** Vos Child's Study Bible, Pages 307-308; The Gospel Story Bible, Pages 212-213.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

**Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

**Craft:** Jesus Wakes Up Lazarus

**Supplies:** Tube, white fabric, googly eyes, tape, glue

**Instructions:** 1. Wrap tube with fabric and secure in place with tape.  
2. Glue on 2 googly eyes.



**Relay of the Day:** Seek and Save

**Snack**

## 11am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

- **Cherub Church** for 3's (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165) – 11:40-11:55

**Craft:** Jesus Wakes Up Lazarus

**Supplies:** Clothespin, white fabric, cup, crayons/markers

**Instructions:** 1. Wrap "body" of clothespin with fabric and secure with tape.  
2. Draw face on "head" of clothespin.  
3. Color cup to look like tomb.



**Relay of the Day:** Seek and Save

### **Story:** *Jesus Wakes Up Lazarus*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, today's story is about an incredible miracle Jesus performed. When Jesus did this miracle, I bet many people could not believe it. Let's hear about our story and see if you believe it!
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### **Teaching Summary:**

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus' friend Lazarus became sick and eventually died. Lazarus had two sisters, Mary and Martha.
- Jesus knew Lazarus was not only sick, but going to die.
- Jesus travelled to see Lazarus and bring him back to life. Upon arriving on the outskirts of Bethany, where family and friends gathered to mourn Lazarus, Martha greeted Jesus.
- Martha questions Jesus' delay in arrival; Jesus promptly asks Martha if she trusts that He, Jesus, is the Resurrection and the Life.
- Martha reports her encounter with Jesus to Mary. Mary goes to Jesus and the crowd of mourners follow after her.
- Mary greets Jesus on the outskirts of town. Jesus asks where Lazarus is buried.
- Jesus shows emotion, both sorrow and anger, over the death of His friend, Lazarus. Death is the enemy of Jesus, who is Life.
- Jesus prays to the Father for help. Jesus then commands Lazarus to rise from the dead. Lazarus does so.
- Some witnesses to this miracle believe in Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life; others report the miracle to the Pharisees.
- The Pharisees begin to plot on how to kill Jesus.

## Story

### **Transition**

Boys and girls, today's story is about an incredible miracle Jesus performed. When Jesus did this miracle, I bet many people could not believe it. Let's hear about our story and see if you believe it!

### **Jesus Wakes Up Lazarus**

There was a man named Lazarus who was sick. Lazarus was a friend of Jesus. Lazarus lived in the town of Bethany where Mary and her sister Martha lived. Lazarus was their brother.

So, Mary and Martha sent someone to tell Jesus, "Jesus, our brother and your best friend Lazarus is sick." When Jesus heard Lazarus was sick he said, "This sickness will not be the end. It is for God's glory. All of this has happened to bring glory to me, God's Son." Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus very much. But when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then Jesus said to his followers, "Let us go back to Judea." Judea was a region where the town of Bethany was located. Jesus went on to tell his followers, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I am going there to wake him." The followers said, "But Lord, if he can sleep, he will get well." The followers did not understand what Jesus was saying. Jesus meant that Lazarus was dead. But Jesus' followers thought that he meant Lazarus was just sleeping. So then Jesus said plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there so that you may believe. But let us go to him now."

### **Jesus in Bethany**

Jesus and his followers finally arrived in Bethany. Lazarus had already been dead and in the tomb for four days. Many friends had come to Martha and Mary's house to be sad with them about Lazarus dying.

Martha heard that Jesus was coming so she ran out to meet him. But Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask."

Jesus said to Martha, "Your brother will rise and live again." Martha believed that one day her brother would rise again. Many Jews knew that a day would come where everyone would come back to life to be judged by God. But Martha did not know that Jesus could raise Lazarus.

Jesus said to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will have life even if he dies. And he who lives and believes in me will never die. Martha, do you believe this?"

Martha answered, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. You are the One who was coming to the world."

### **Jesus Cries**

After Martha said this she ran back to her sister Mary. She talked to Mary alone about what Jesus had said. Martha told Mary, "The Teacher is here and he is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. Jesus had not yet come into the town. He was still at the place where Martha had met him. There were many people in the house with Mary comforting her. They saw Mary stand up and leave quickly. They followed her thinking that she was going to where Lazarus was buried to cry. But Mary went to the place where Jesus was. When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus saw that Mary was crying and that all those who came with her were crying too. Jesus became very sad and angry. Jesus asked, "Where did you bury him?"

"Come and see, Lord," they said.

Jesus cried.

Upon seeing Jesus cry everyone there said, "See how much Jesus loved his friend Lazarus."

But some of them questioned, "If Jesus healed the eyes of the blind man, why didn't he keep Lazarus from dying?"

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus**

Jesus was still very sad. He came to the tomb of Lazarus. The tomb was a cave with a large stone covering the entrance. Jesus said, "Move the stone away." Martha said, "But Jesus, it has been four days since he died. There will be a bad smell!" Then Jesus said to Martha, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see something incredible?"

So, they moved the stone away from the entrance. The Bible tells us that Jesus looked up to Heaven and prayed to His Father. "Father, I thank you that you heard me. I know that you always hear me," Jesus went on to pray, "I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you sent me." After Jesus said this, he cried out in a loud voice [SHOUT], "Lazarus, come out!" Just as Jesus had commanded, Lazarus came out of the tomb. He was alive!!! Lazarus did not look like a dead person, but healthy and normal.

After Jesus performed this miracle, many people there believed in Him, but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. The Pharisees did not like that Jesus was performing great miracles. They decided that Jesus needed to be stopped. The Pharisees began to plan on how to kill Jesus.

## Questions for Review

### Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was Jesus' friend?
- Who was Lazarus' sisters?
- How long did Jesus wait to go see Lazarus?
- Who greeted Lazarus on the outskirts of town?
- Who did Jesus say He was to Martha?
- What emotion did Jesus display?
- What did Jesus pray?
- What did Jesus say to Lazarus? What happened next?
- How did people in the crowd respond to Jesus' miracle?
- What did the Pharisees decide to do?

### Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

## Scripture Memory for March:

For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

## Catechism Questions (1-20)

## Hymn of the Month:

Lift High the Cross