



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers' Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 43

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Take Home Point: * Jesus brings people back to life.
Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 11:1-54

Key Verse: John 11:25, Jesus said to her, "I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.
- Jesus has the power to bring people back to life here on earth and the power to give life in heaven.
- Like Mary and Martha, we can bring our sadness to Jesus when someone dies.
- When we ask, "Jesus, why don't you do something to help?" he helps us the best way possible. (*He waited while Lazarus was sick but knew he would raise him from the dead.*)

We will help kids feel:

- Confident that through faith, they will live forever with Jesus.
- Courage to not be afraid of death.

We will help kids do:

- Decorate a group member with tissue to create a mummy wrap.
- Talk about sadness they might have felt when someone they knew died.
- Make a "Lazarus Pillow" that reminds us of Jesus' power to wipe away tears.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<p>Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes)</p> 	3	<p>Kids use a roll of tissue to wrap a student as a mummy and discuss the victory Jesus provides over death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roll of toilet tissue per group • tape
<p>Large Group (20-30 minutes)</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>8</p> <p>10</p> <p>10</p> <p>12</p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: “Gordy gets Mummy Wrapped”—Gordy is wrapped as a mummy and learns why Jesus would let someone die.</p> <p>Video: <i>The Gospel of John</i>—John 11:1-54</p> <p>Signs Along Believers’ Highway: Kids review and see how pop-up style tissues demonstrate Jesus’ power to bring people back to life.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy gets Mummy Wrapped”—Gordy leads kids in a toilet tissue race as a reminder that Jesus brings us comfort and wipes away our tears.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy wrapped with toilet tissue • road construction worker outfit • two rolls of tissue for the race (one per team) • one box of pop-up style tissues • video: <i>The Gospel of John</i>, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003 • sign that says “When you need help, look up and say...” (p. 14) Other side has printed “...Believe _____ (in Jesus) and everything will be _____ (okay).” (p. 15)
<p>Small Group Application (20-25 minutes)</p> 	4	<p>Students will make Lazarus pillows to remind them of the comfort Jesus gives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • toilet tissue roll for each group • sealable plastic sandwich bag for each student • Bible verse stickers for pillow (or blank labels so kids can write own verses, from an assortment of pre-selected and pre-printed verses for student choices p. 16)

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Supplies: roll of toilet tissue and tape

The following fun activity is a group builder and will certainly help lighten the mood before talking about death and funerals.

Today we will have a mummy wrap. Many years ago when people died, they were wrapped with strips of cloth until they were all the way covered. They are sometimes called mummies. The people in Bible times didn't call them that but they did wrap them with strips of cloth. Let's see if we can make a mummy out of one of you. Who would like to volunteer?

Let kids choose their mummy.

The rest of us will use this roll of tissue (hold up roll) to see how much of your body we can wrap.

Have kids work together as a team to cover the whole person in a mummy wrap. They can use bits of Scotch tape if needed. To help keep the volunteer safe from falling, do not wrap the legs together. Also, do not wrap the arms to the volunteer's body because if they do fall, their arms are free to cushion the fall. When finished, let kids tour the other groups to see their mummy work.

Let the mummy get unwrapped and gather kids together for the following discussion.

Note: *Sometimes we are reluctant to talk to children about death. We might think that by avoiding the subject, we are helping children not to be scared of dying. But the truth is, we need to talk about it in appropriate ways so that children can have their questions answered and learn about the victory that Jesus has provided after death for those who believe in him. We need not dwell on the subject, but it is helpful to discuss it openly.*

Ask:

Have you ever had someone close to you die? What did it feel like for you? What was the funeral like?

Today we will discover that Jesus wipes away our tears of sorrow because: **Jesus brings people back to life.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Mummy Wrapped”—Gordy is wrapped as a mummy and learns why Jesus would let someone die.

Video: *The Gospel of John*—John 11:1-54

Signs Along Believers’ Highway: Kids review and see how pop-up style tissues demonstrate Jesus’ power to bring people back to life.

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Mummy Wrapped”—Gordy leads kids in a toilet tissue race as a reminder that Jesus brings us comfort and wipes away our tears.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?/Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Have kids refer to John 11:1-54 in their Bibles.

Why do you think Mary and Martha sent a messenger to tell Jesus that his close friend Lazarus was sick? (*John 11:3. They knew Jesus could heal their brother.*)

How long did Jesus wait before he went to Lazarus? (*John 11:6. He stayed where he was for two days.*)

What did Jesus mean when he said he was going to Bethany to wake up his friend, Lazarus? (*John 11:11-15. Jesus knew he had died and was going to raise him to life again.*)

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

What did Jesus ask of his Father God when the tomb of Lazarus was opened? (*John 11:41-42. To hear him so that the crowd standing around the tomb would know that God sent Jesus.*)

How did Jesus show his authority over death? (*John 11:43. He commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb and he did.*)

Going deeper: (If you have the time.)

According to John 11:4 and John 11:15, why did Jesus let Lazarus die? (*To bring glory to God and to increase the faith of the disciples with the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead.*)

What did Mary and Martha say that showed they had great faith in Jesus? (*John 11:21, 22, 24, 27, 32. They knew if Jesus had come earlier, their brother would not have died. Martha said she believed her brother would come back to life on the last day, when everyone would come back to life. She also said that she believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.*)

If Jesus knew beforehand that he was going to bring Lazarus back to life, why was he so sad that he cried? (*John 11:33-38. He loved Mary and Martha so much that he was sad they were so sad.*)

What remnants of death did Jesus command Lazarus to be freed from after he came out of the tomb? (*John 11:44. Strips of cloth wound around his feet, hands and face.*)

So when we are raised to new life, will we still have any remnants of sin or death? (*No!*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Have you ever felt like Mary and Martha, wondering why Jesus did not heal someone you loved and he/she eventually died? How did you feel?

In today's key verses from John 11:25-26 Jesus said, "I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die..."

Does this verse bring you comfort? Why? How can this verse help you when someone you know is dying?

How does this verse or Bible event help you from fearing death?

Although it's very sad when someone dies, Jesus helps wipe away those tears because he has power over death and the power to give life.

Remember how tissues pulled from the tissue box pop up and are followed by others that pop up, too? Once Jesus was raised from the dead, just like that first tissue pulled from the box, those who believe in him are raised from the dead as well, just like the other tissues that pop up after it.

Application Activity:

Supplies: toilet tissue roll for each group, sealable plastic sandwich bag for each student, Bible verse stickers for pillow (or blank labels so kids can write own verses from an assortment of pre-selected and pre-printed verses for student choices)

Today we're going to make a Lazarus pillow. Pillows are a source of comfort. Lazarus pillows remind us that Jesus brings people back to life and that will give us comfort, too.

Fold up several sections of toilet paper and insert into the plastic bag.

When we pull out the first tissue from the Lazarus pillow, we are reminded of Jesus and the power of his resurrection. The other tissue pieces that follow, remind us of his promise that anyone who lives in him will not die but have eternal life. Just like these tissues wipe away tears, Jesus comforts us also.

Just like Mary and Martha were crying and sad, both of them didn't understand why Jesus didn't come when Lazarus was sick. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he turned their comfort into joy.

What happened to Lazarus after that? We don't know much more about his life, but we do know one thing: finally he did die. I'm sure people were sad once again. But Jesus would comfort them again because Lazarus believed that he would be with Jesus again in heaven.

To make the pillow, have kids unroll some tissue and stuff it into their plastic bag. Have them write a comforting Bible verse on the sticker label (if not preprinted) and stick it on the outside of the bag.

You have the choice to take your Lazarus pillow home to keep in a special place, like with your Bible, because it is a reminder that God comforts you. But you can also choose to leave it here in our group

tub as a reminder that God comforts our sorrows when we talk about things that may be sad in our lives.

Today we learned that Jesus wipes away our tears of sorrow because **Jesus brings people back to life.*

Closing Prayer:

Pray for others who may have a loved one who is very sick or has recently died. Pray that God would help all to trust that Jesus has power over death and will bring his followers back to life.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs Along Believers Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses, "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible.

Supplies: orange construction vest, hat, work boots, sign on stick--one side has printed, "When you need help, look up and say..." Other side has printed, "...Believe _ _____ (in Jesus) and everything will be ____ (okay)." two or four chairs, cardboard car front, one box of pop-up style tissues, two rolls of tissue for the race (one per team)

Gordy Gets Mummy Wrapped Puppet Presentation

Gordy comes out in a tissue mummy wrap that covers his eyes.

Presenter: Kids, shall we call Gordy?

Kids call Gordy. Gordy! Gordy! Gordy!

Gordy: Whoa. Who turned off the lights?

Presenter: Gordy, you are all mummified.

Gordy: Pretty cool, isn't it? My small group wrapped me so well that I decided to leave it on.

Presenter: I think it's time to take it off now.

Gordy: But I thought I would leave it on until I got home so that I could scare my sister.

Presenter: So you think you look pretty scary?

Gordy: Sure. Don't I look like one of those mummy dudes? You know, fresh from the dead, just cruising around looking for sisters to scare.

Presenter: Gordy, did you know that today we are going to read in the Bible about a mummy-looking dude who came back to life... and he visited his sisters?

Gordy: For real?

Presenter: For real.

Gordy: Cool. I bet he scared the bee-jeebers out of them!

Presenter: Actually not. They were quite happy to see him. Think of it, Gordy. If someone you really loved died, and then that person came back to life, how would you feel?

Gordy: Ummm. I hadn't really thought about it for real. I mean it would be really sad if your brother... or even your sister died.

Presenter: Yes. That can be one of the saddest things that can happen to us, when someone we love dies.

Gordy: Then why does God let it happen?

Presenter: That's what the sisters in today's Bible event were wondering. Why would Jesus let their brother die?

Gordy: Why?

Presenter: Jesus wanted to show that he is God's Son and has power to bring people back to life.

Gordy: Even today?

Presenter: Especially today. After people die, Jesus will bring those who are his believers back to life with him in heaven.

Gordy: Okay, then can we see the Bible video?

Presenter: Sure. Listen for the word "life." When you hear it, snap your fingers once. It will remind you that Jesus is the one who gives life (snap fingers), just like that.

Video

Show John 11 from *The Gospel of John DVD*, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003.

Start right after the statement: "And in that place many people believed..." and continue until verse 54 when it concludes with "So from that day forward they made plans to kill Jesus." Total time: 9 minutes, 45 seconds.

Signs along Believers' Highway

John 11:1-54

The presenter holds up the sign that says, "When you need help, look up and say..." Other side has printed, "Believe ___ (in Jesus) and everything will be ___ (okay)." Be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for the contest.

Presenter: I need two kids and one adult to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

On "Believers' Highway" kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let's go for a ride!

I've got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, "When you need help, look up and say..." Other side has printed, "Believe ___ (in Jesus) and everything will be ___ (okay)." It rhymes with the front of the sign. So, do you want to give it a shot?

Allow for a few guesses before sharing the answers.

Let's ask our people in the car a couple of questions.

- 1. How long did Jesus wait to go to Lazarus after Martha told him Lazarus was sick? (He waited two more days.)**

2. When Jesus told his disciples that he was going to Bethany to wake Lazarus, his disciples thought Lazarus was sleeping. What did Jesus mean when he said he was going to “wake Lazarus”? *(He would raise him from the dead.)*
3. When Jesus told them to roll away the stone to the tomb, they said there would be a smell because Lazarus had been in there a number of days. How many days had he been in the tomb? *(Four days.)*
4. Jesus spoke at the tomb and said, “Lazarus, come out!” What happened? *(Lazarus came out.)*
5. For the final question—In John 11:25, Jesus said, *“I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die.”* Jesus proved that he had the power to raise people from the dead and bring them back to life here on earth. But he also has the power to bring people back to life in heaven. That means that anyone who believes in him will live even if they die. How does Jesus have power to bring people who have died, back to life? It can be seen in this box of tissues.

Show the tissue box with the top tissue tucked in the box so it can't be seen.

Jesus is like the first tissue in this box. He died for our sins, was buried, just like the tissue in this box, but did not stay dead. Instead, he rose from the dead like this.

Pull out the tissue and another tissue pops up after it.

Since Jesus rose from the dead, look who follows after him. In this case, another tissue, that is like another person who believes in him.

Pull out another tissue and another and another.

Each one of these tissues reminds us of another person who believes in him. Even if they die, they will live forever with him in heaven.

So here's the question. The first team to get this right wins the contest. What power does Jesus have to raise US from the dead? What did he do first to make that possible? *(He rose from the dead.)*

Anytime you see a tissue box and you pull a tissue out and another one follows, it can remind you how Jesus rose from the dead. Because of what Jesus did, all those who believe in him will also rise.

Have volunteers return to their seats.

Gordy Gets Mummified

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: What did you think, Gordy?

Gordy: I think it's kind of cool how those tissues you pulled out of the box one after another remind us of how Jesus rose from the dead and will bring us back to life, as well.

Presenter: Very good, Gordy. I'm glad you listened.

Gordy: I've got another good idea, too!

Presenter: What is it?

Gordy: I think we should have a tissue race.

Presenter: A tissue race? What on earth for?

Gordy: Well, if those tissues popping up remind us of how Jesus will bring us back to life, a tissue race will remind us of...uh...let me see...uh...oh, I've got it! It will remind us of how when we are sad if someone dies, Jesus is like tissue that helps wipe away our tears!

Presenter: Wow! That's right. Okay, how do you play?

Gordy: Well, we need to have this half of the room race against the other half. Then we start with a roll of tissue paper in the back and the kids have a contest unrolling it for 15 seconds. As they do it, they pass it down through the row, then to the next row, trying to get every person to quickly and gently pass it down without tearing it. We will see which group can first get the largest *untorn* section to the front.

Presenter: That sounds crazy!

Gordy: Exactly.

Presenter: I don't know... kids do you want to play? (Kids will answer "yes.") Okay, if we do this, we are only going to unroll the tissue for 15 seconds.

When I say “stop,” then stop unrolling. Everyone else should pass the tissue as fast as they can without tearing it. Remember that this reminds us of how Jesus passes to us all the comfort we need to wipe away our tears and sadness if someone dies.

Gordy: Let’s start. On your mark. Get set. Go.

(Fun praise music is played during the race.)

Presenter: Wow. That was fun. Now it’s time to pray and leave. Will you pray, Gordy?

Gordy: Dear God. Thank you for Jesus **who brings people back to life*. Thank you that we don’t have to be afraid of death. Thank you for wiping away our tears of sadness when someone dies. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

**When you
need
help, look
up and
say...**

**Believe (*in*
Jesus) and
everything
will be
(okay).”**

COMFORT VERSES: *(All from NIV.)*

Deuteronomy 31:6

“Do not be afraid or terrified...for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Psalm 59:16

“...you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.”

Psalm 139:7-10

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”

Psalm 50:7b and 15

“I am God, your God...call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you will honor me.”

Psalm 25:3

“No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame.”

Psalm 147:11

“The LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.”

Isaiah 12:2

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.”

Jeremiah 31:3

“The LORD says, “I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.”

Romans 8:31

“What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?”