



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Takes Care of Me
Winter Year 2, Lesson 41

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Bible Event: John 11:1-44

Take Home Point: *WHEN I AM SAD – *I know Jesus cares.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus loved Lazarus. Jesus loves and cares for me.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that sometimes things happen that make us sad. It is okay to feel sad – even Jesus was sad sometimes. In fact, when Jesus' friend Lazarus died, Jesus was so sad that he cried. When we feel sad, the best thing to do is tell Jesus. He can help us feel better. Kids will take home the point: ***WHEN I AM SAD – *I know Jesus cares.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Your choice of music, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Video

Test your sound and video system beforehand. Cue the video to its precise beginning. For larger groups of children (15 or more), use a large screen TV or imager. Dim the lights before starting the video. To introduce a video, you might read from a Bible storybook and leave off the ending, inviting children to see what happens by watching the video. You could also introduce the video by inviting children to keep an eye out for special actions or words they will see during it.

Introduce the video by explaining that the video is going to tell a true Bible event about a time when Jesus was sad. In the video, Jesus' friend, a man named Lazarus, dies. Everyone, including Jesus, was very sad. But then Jesus did something amazing. Invite the children to watch the video to see what happens.

Show *Lazarus Lives: The Animated Stories from the New Testament*, Nest Entertainment. Start the video where Jesus is under the tree with his disciples and says, "I must go." End the clip, a little over four minutes later, when Jesus says, "I have done this that you might believe that I have power over death."

Conclude by helping the children summarize the story.

Option: Use *Jesus of Nazareth*, Bridgestone Group Inc., 1995, segment at the end of volume 2.



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Introduce the snack by using an empty plastic Easter egg. Pretend the egg is a tomb and ask the children if they think Lazarus is in it. Open the egg to show the kids that it is empty. Then distribute Teddy Grahams to represent the living Lazarus. *Optional:* Have an empty egg for each child to open.

Drama Zone: Provide toilet paper and masking tape and allow children, with supervision, to wrap one another.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss times they've felt sad and how Jesus cares.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus Raising Lazarus from today's Bible event. (For example: use *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*, #137, Jesus Brings Lazarus to Life.)

Craft Zone: Provide each child with four non-hinged clothespins or wide craft sticks to make character "puppets." Use markers to draw the faces of Mary, Martha, Lazarus and Jesus. Provide white scraps of cloth or paper to wrap around Lazarus. The other "people" can be decorated with markers, scraps of cloth or paper, or pipe cleaners, tape and glue.

Options: Provide a paper bag or sandwich bag to carry the puppets in or to represent Lazarus' tomb. Use small amounts of play dough as a base for each puppet, allowing them to "stand."

Play Zone: While children wave a parachute or sheet, call out a characteristic (i.e., brown hair, black shoes) and have the kids who meet that criteria run under the parachute and stay. Then, have all the children yell, "Lazarus, come out!" That cues the children under the parachute to come out and take a spot waving the parachute again. Repeat with other characteristics, making sure all children are included.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus Raising Lazarus.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Jesus Raises Lazarus” coloring page

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Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

***Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.*

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

***Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.*

Judy knows today's take home point is about being sad. She knows what it feels like to be sad. She's been sad before when she got in trouble. She's also been sad before because she got hurt while she was playing. But she's never had someone she knows die, so she doesn't know what it's like to be that sad. She knows that it must be really sad, though.

The presenter explains that it is very sad when someone dies. Even in today's Bible story, Jesus cried because he was so sad that Lazarus died. If even Jesus cries, we know it must be sad. And when something like that happens, it's okay to be sad and even to cry.

Judy interrupts because she knows that in today's Bible story the people didn't stay sad, because Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. So, if Jesus can do that, then people don't have to stay sad forever.

The presenter goes on to explain that it's true that in this Bible story Jesus did raise Lazarus from the dead. But that isn't exactly how it works today. When someone dies today, Jesus doesn't bring them back to life on earth, but he does bring them back to life in another place. He asks the children if they know where. The presenter explains that heaven isn't just clouds, but it's a very real place where people get to talk to Jesus just as close as we are right here. That's how Jesus raises people from the dead today. Because of that, we don't have to be sad forever, either. We know Jesus will take care of everything and make it so that we don't have to be sad forever. Remember: ***WHEN I AM SAD – I know Jesus cares.**

Prayer Time:

***Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.*

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish with bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross your hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- *Lazarus Lives: The Animated Stories from the New Testament*; Nest Entertainment—order from http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=LZD

Action Zones:

Snack:

- plastic Easter eggs
- Teddy Graham crackers

Drama:

- rolls of toilet paper
- masking tape

Craft:

- non-hinged clothespins or wide craft sticks, four per child
- markers
- scraps of white and any other color cloth or paper
- tape and glue or glue sticks
- *Optional:* paper bags or sandwich bags
- *Optional:* pipe cleaners
- *Optional:* play dough

Play:

- parachute or sheet

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (example: use *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*, #137, Jesus Brings Lazarus to Life)

Coloring page:

- “Jesus Raises Lazarus”

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books