

PARENTS PLEASE READ THROUGH FIRST SO THAT YOU CAN WORK THROUGH WITH CHILDREN. EVEN THOUGH SCRIPT IS GIVEN, IT REALLY IS JUST TO GUIDE DISCUSSION. PLEASE FORGIVE ANY ERRORS.

Theme – Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life.

Objective Summary

- i) To familiarise children with the Story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45) (which is the gospel lectionary reading for March 29, 2020).
- ii) To teach that the Power of the Resurrection is not a distant event but available now through Jesus.
- iii) To learn memory verse John 11:25-26

Resources needed

Bibles

Computer or phone to watch video

Printed material if possible, colouring crayons, pencils/pens

Lesson and Bible reading

Say: Last week we said that everyone experiences fears sometimes but we can remember that we have the ultimate super hero (God) to help us overcome ours. This week we are going to read/watch the story of Jesus actually raising somebody from the dead. This shows the awesome power of God. Let's read/watch the story.

Watch the following youtube video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4srXPVgYU0w>

or read John 11:1-45

(The reading is long for little ones but watching video is enough.)

Say: Let's have a little oral (group) quiz to ensure we got all the main points

Quiz time

For Beginners and Primaries

1. What is the name of the man that died?
2. What is the name of the dead man's sisters?
3. What did Jesus do to Lazarus?
4. How long had Lazarus died before Jesus raised him?

For older children

1.) What town did Lazarus live in?

- Bethlehem
- Bethany
- Nazareth
- Gazarenes

2.) When Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus was ill, he said...

- nothing - he wept.
- "Tell Mary and Martha to call a physician immediately."
- "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory."
- "Let the dead bury their dead."

3.) After having heard that Lazarus was ill, Jesus...

- stayed two days longer in the place where he was.
- went fishing.
- hurried immediately to Lazarus' house to visit him.
- tore his clothes, put ashes on his head and wept bitterly.

4.) Why did the disciples not want to go back to Judea with Jesus?

- The Jews had tried to stone Jesus there and they did not think it wise for him to return there.
- It was nearing the time for the Passover and they wanted to stay in Jerusalem for the feast.
- They had just come from there.
- They were too tired to make the journey.

5.) When Jesus told the disciples that Lazarus was asleep, what did he mean?

- Lazarus was lazy.
- Lazarus was needing to be woken up.
- Lazarus was in a coma.
- Lazarus was dead.

6.) How long had Lazarus been in the tomb when Jesus arrived at his house?

- one day
- two days
- three days
- four days

7.) They took away the stone, and Jesus looked upward and said...

- "Father, I thank you for having heard me."
- "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
- "If thou can't believe, all things are possible."
- "Oh God, have mercy on me and hear my prayer."

8.) When Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb and he appeared still bound in grave cloth, what did many of the Jews who saw it do?

- They believed in Jesus.
- They believed that Jesus was a sorcerer.
- They searched in the tomb for any evidence that trickery had been involved.
- They plotted to kill Jesus.

Lesson continues and Memory Verse

Note to parents: It may be tricky to have a conversation about life and death without frightening children and the youngest ones may not really have a full understanding of death so be sensitive to their emotions especially during these times when death from crime and disease is very much on the news. Try to answer any questions they may have with assuring tones and allow them to express their feelings (even if it feels they are going off point – you might be surprised how their seemingly wandering minds connect with point)but try to cover the main points below.

Discussion:

Have you ever seen a dead bug – one that is lying on its back for a long time and it does not move anymore, even if it is touched? Do you think that you will see it come back to life again? Of course not! It has died. It does not have life anymore on this earth. *(For older children, if you think appropriate here you might have a discussion with them about the latest Covid-19 figures <https://www.worldometers.info/>)*

Yet, we have watched a story where Jesus brought a man back to life! Yes, God, our ultimate superhero has the power to give life. Only God can do this.

When Jesus was speaking to Martha, Jesus said to her: “I am the resurrection and the life”.

The word “resurrection” is the ability to come to life after death. When God made the heaven and the earth, he wanted us to live with him forever. But because we became sinful death came into the world. But the good news is that when we believe in Jesus and give our hearts to him, he will give us life even after we die so we can live in Heaven forever. We can take comfort from that right now and live in joy knowing that we have that promise as children of God.

Memory Verse

For the younger children Ask the children to say the word – Resurrection. And then ask them to repeat the sentence “Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life” until they can say it by heart and then skip to activity.

For Older Children – Give them a few minutes to learn following memory verse.

“Jesus said ... ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’”

John 11:25-26

Activity

1. See Activity sheets below

Closing: Even in times like this where death seems to be all around, we need not focus on it. Rather we can focus on the fact that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life and everyone that believes in Him shall have everlasting life. Therefore as children of God, we can still have joy and laughter in present times because we have the promise of life through Jesus Christ

Prayer

Father God, thank you that you are the Giver of Life. Thank you that anyone who believes in Jesus and becomes a child of God can live forever. Thank you that even in these strange times we can have much joy. Thank you for your goodness and your love for me. I pray for my family, friends, church and Jamaica in these times. Protect us and give us courage and give us the joy of life. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

JESUS MAKES LAZARUS LIVE

John 11:1-44



Jesus tells Lazarus to come out of the grave

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).



L A Z A R U S E S L E E P M P
 Q E N T R A N C E B D F L Y U
 L J O A S O W D Y L I F E V L
 F N I K T W E I X L G T O M B
 X Y K S C Q E S F O E D Z N R
 P R A Y E D P C F V R E E E D
 B K Q W E S I I A E C A H V X
 G L F K K N N P O A V T C V R
 R L A Z U K G L G T O H G A E
 I W O H F E E E Z R R H H V R
 S F C R X J W S B J T T E S A
 E H W Y Y N Y B N S R I U W A
 L W B P O M A R Y A L S H M K
 G C Q L W H J S M E E R A X G
 B H A E U U Q H B J S I C K V

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEeping	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP