



ALIVE AGAIN!

Preschool-K • #NT11 • February 11, 2024

Concept

Jesus is God. He made Lazarus alive again.

Goal

Children will learn that Jesus was able to raise Lazarus from the dead because He has power over death. They will learn that they will live forever with Jesus if they accept God's forgiveness through Christ.

Passage

John 11:1-45

Key Verse: "Everyone who believes in Jesus will live forever, even though they die." John 11:25b

Planning Ahead

| Lesson Supplies | Craft Supplies |
|--|---|
| <p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Playdough, 1 tub/room</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Praise Bible, Mack Thomas <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Toilet paper, 1 roll/class</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Laminated, magnetic-backed pictures of:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Tomb</i> ◦ <i>Lazarus</i> ◦ <i>Mary</i> ◦ <i>Martha</i> | <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pictures of Lazarus printed on card stock, 1 figure/child • Printed pages with Jesus, tomb and the key verse, 1/child • Small craft sticks, 1/child • Glue sticks • Markers/crayons |

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"The last great 'sign' in John appears in the exact center of his book, chapter 11, and forms a narrative hinge for all that precedes and follows. John points to the miracle involving Lazarus as the event that turned the religious establishment fatally against Jesus. His account also offers a neat summary of what miracles did, and did not, accomplish in Jesus' time on earth.

"The story of Lazarus has a unique 'staged' quality about it. Usually when Jesus got word of a sick person he responded immediately, sometimes changing plans in order to accommodate the request. This time, after receiving word of the illness of one of his good friends, he lingered in another town for two more days. He did so intentionally, in full knowledge that the delay would result in Lazarus's death. John includes Jesus' cryptic explanation to his disciples, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.' Deliberately, he let Lazarus die and his family grieve."^[1]

"Martha was crying. Mary was crying. All the mourners were crying. Finally, Jesus himself, 'deeply moved in spirit and troubled,' broke into tears. John does not say why Jesus wept. Since he had already revealed his plans to raise Lazarus from the dead, he surely did not feel the same grief as the devastated mourners. Still, something got to him. As he approached the tomb, again he felt a spasm, 'groaning in spirit; as some translations have it.

"Death had never bothered Jesus before...

"Jesus' prayer at the tombside gives a clue: 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' Nowhere else had Jesus prayed with an over-the-shoulder audience in mind, like a Shakespearean actor who turns to the crowd to deliver an aside. At this moment Jesus seemed self-consciously aware of his dual identity, simultaneously the One who came down from heaven and the Son of Man born on earth."^[2]

[1] The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey, ©1995 Philip Yancey, Zondervan Publishing House, p. 178.

[2] Ibid, p. 179.

Incorporation Lg. Group

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Introduction Lg. Group

Transition

Lesson Lg. Group

The day of class: On each Jesus, tomb and key verse page, cut the thick black line from the edge of the tomb door across the page to Jesus. Cut apart the pictures of Lazarus.

Activity Stations:

- **Craft**
 - **Instructions:** Give children playdough and tell them about all the characters in today's lesson. Have them make the characters, the tomb and the stone. This will help them visualize the story as it is taught because they will be familiar with the characters. **Note:** Please leave the playdough for subsequent classes! The children should not take it home.

Have any of you have seen cartoons where a person gets bonked on the head or falls from a very high place and then gets up and runs away? Do you think that really happens? Do you think people can die and then come back to life? Other than in cartoons, have you ever heard about a person who died and then came back to life?

Today we are going to learn about Lazarus who was a very good friend of Jesus. Lazarus died and was buried. Four days later Jesus went to visit Lazarus' sisters and an amazing thing happened.

Story – "Lazarus Is Raised from the Dead"

Instructions: Read the story from The Praise Bible, pp. 364-371. Ask the children if they have ever heard about Lazarus. Do they think a person can really die and then come back to life?

A very amazing thing happened, didn't it? Lazarus was dead for four days but then he was alive! Everyone was amazed when Lazarus came out all wrapped up in the cloths he was buried in. Jesus asked Lazarus' friends to unwrap him and set him free.

Do you know what? When the people saw this, many of them believed that Jesus was God. Only God could ever make somebody alive after they had been dead. Jesus is God. He made Lazarus alive again.

Jesus wants every one of you to know that He is God and He made Lazarus alive again. He wants you to believe that He is God. You can tell Jesus that you believe He is God and ask Him to forgive your bad choices. Then you will be friends with Him just like Lazarus was.

We're going to pray together now. You can thank Jesus for how you learned that He brought a man back to life and that he is God.

Transition

Let's make a craft to remind us that Jesus is God. He made Lazarus alive again.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Jesus at Lazarus' Tomb

- **Instructions:** Give each child a picture of Jesus at the tomb and a Lazarus puppet. Color the puppet and the printed page. Glue Lazarus onto craft stick. Help the children play the story by moving the puppet from the tomb towards Jesus.

Transition

Come play with me now if you would like to pretend you were with Jesus when Lazarus came out of the tomb.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Group

Creative Play

- **Instructions:** The reality of death is vague with small children. You may be amazed to learn they are less disturbed by it than you are. As you lead the play, focus on Jesus' emotional involvement with his friends and His supernatural power. Select a volunteer to play Lazarus; wrap him/her in toilet paper and have him/her lie down. Gather other children around and re-enact Jesus at the tomb using lots of prompts to reinforce the lesson. Repeat the concept, Jesus is God. He made Lazarus alive again, with the children as you play.

Learning Activity#3 Sm. Group

Play

Instructions: Use the provided laminated figures for one group of children to reenact the story. Another group can use their craft to reenact it.

Discussion

- When Lazarus walked out of the tomb alive, many of the people who saw this happen came to believe Jesus was God. Why? (They understood that only God could raise someone from the dead, so Jesus must be God.)
- What does it mean for you that Jesus raised Lazarus from death? (You can choose to believe Jesus is God and that only God can forgive your bad choices. You can ask Him to forgive you; then He will be your friend and you can live in Heaven with Him.) If you have made that choice, you can thank God for His power and love.