

# 19



## JESUS AND LAZARUS

### Power to Bring New Life

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

## 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** John 11: 1 – 44

**Objectives** To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- Mary and Martha asked Jesus to come and help them, as their brother was very sick.
- Jesus cared for his friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha. He cares for each of us too.
- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead so that people would believe that he was God's Son, the Forever King, who has power over death and was sent to bring new life to the world.
- Jesus taught that even though people die, whoever believes in him will not perish but will have eternal life. (That is, they will live with God forever.)

**Memory Verse** 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)

**ACNA** The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

**Catechism  
Connection**

Q 49 Who is Jesus Christ? ...Son of God

Q 50 What does "Jesus" mean? ..."God saves" and God has come to save us from the power of sin and death

Q 69 & 70 What does Jesus do for you and how does he affect your life today? ...He sees my needs and hears my prayers. I can rely on Jesus always to be present with me.

Q143 Where do you go after you die? ...body will perish but, by the will of God, my soul will live on...

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

**Memory Verse:** (Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

**Lesson props:**

- Mat for Lazarus to lie on
- Basin of water and two cloths (one cloth for Mary and the other for Martha)
- Roll of Paper towel and scotch tape (to wrap up Lazarus)
- Create a cave to resemble the tomb, and a piece of paper or card shaped as a rock to cover the opening of the tomb
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part

**Costumes:**

- Jesus (with blue sash)
- Lazarus, lying on the mat looking very sick
- Mary and Martha

**Memory Verse:** 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)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

## 2 | Lesson Outline

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Poster Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss this week's poster.</li> <li>• Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></b></p>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Poster Discussion

**Poster**

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in the poster? (Jesus, tomb, rock rolled away, a man coming out of the tomb, people watching.)

I wonder who the man is coming out of the tomb.

I wonder why he is coming out of the tomb.

Let's hear more in our story....



## 4 | Story and Life Application

**CROWN:** *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospel of John, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

**LESSON SUMMARY:** *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

*In today's story, Jesus shows his power to restore life as he raises a dead friend back to life. One day, when Jesus was in a different town, a close friend named Lazarus became very ill. The sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, asked Jesus to come and heal their brother. But Jesus knew that God his Father had something more wonderful to teach and show the world than healing a sick friend. So Jesus remained in the town where he was for 2 more days. Meanwhile, Lazarus had died. When Jesus came to where Lazarus had been buried in a tomb, Lazarus had already been dead 4 days! Everyone was weeping and Jesus wept too. Then Jesus told his friends to move the stone in front of the tomb. He looked up to heaven and thanked his Father and called, "Lazarus come out!" Lazarus came out of the tomb with the linen grave cloths wrapped around him. He was no longer dead! Lazarus was brought back to life! His family rejoiced in the love and power of Jesus, God's Son. God was glorified and many people believed in Jesus and God's love. Jesus truly is the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in him will have eternal life.*

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** This is the story about a very important miracle that Jesus did to show his love and power over death. Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were close friends with Jesus.

One day – something very sad happened. Lazarus became very sick, and Mary and Martha were taking care of him.

***ACTION:*** *Lazarus is lying on a mat. Mary and Martha have a basin of water and a cloth and are wiping Lazarus' forehead.*

**TEACHER:** Because Lazarus was so sick, Mary and Martha sent someone to go and tell Jesus that Lazarus was very sick. The person had to travel a distance.

***ACTION:*** *Mary and Martha ask somebody to run to Jesus and tell him that Lazarus is very sick.*

**TEACHER:** When Jesus heard the news, what do you think he did?

Jesus did something really surprising. Jesus did not go to visit Lazarus. Instead, he stayed where he was for two more days. You see, Jesus knew that God was going to do an amazing miracle. Jesus was going to show the people that he had power over death.

Meanwhile, Lazarus had died. Jesus knew this and told his disciples, "Lazarus is dead."

**ACTION:** *Show Mary and Martha wrapping Lazarus in the paper towel. They place Lazarus in a tomb and put a rock over the tomb.*

**TEACHER:** Once Lazarus was dead and buried, then Jesus travelled and went to be with Mary and Martha.

It was now 4 days later. When Martha saw Jesus, she came running to him. Let's listen to hear what happens...

**MARTHA:** (Crying) Oh Jesus..."if you had been here, my brother would not have died!"

**JESUS:** Martha, do not be upset. Your brother will rise again.... "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will never die."

Martha, do you believe me?

**MARTHA:** Yes, Jesus. I do believe.

**TEACHER:** You see, Martha did believe that Jesus was God's Son, the Forever King.

Then Martha's sister Mary came to see Jesus. Mary was crying.

**TEACHER:** The Bible tells us that Jesus also cried.

**JESUS:** Come Mary and Martha – let us go to the tomb.

**ACTION:** *Jesus, Mary and Martha walk to the tomb.*

**TEACHER:** Jesus could hear people saying, "If Jesus had come earlier, he could have healed Lazarus, so he would not have died."

The people did not know that Jesus was going to do something really surprising to show them that he was God's Son. Jesus was going to show the people that he could rescue them from their sin and from death.

Then Jesus said,

**JESUS:** Open the tomb!

**TEACHER:** Oh my – that is not what the people were thinking that Jesus would ask them to do.

Then Jesus stepped forward and said,

**JESUS:** “Father, I thank you that you have heard me....I know that you always hear me. But I said these things because of the people here around me. I want them to believe that you have sent me.”

**TEACHER:** Then, Jesus in a loud voice shouted....

**JESUS:** “Lazarus, come out!!”

**TEACHER:** Look everyone – look at Lazarus! *(Point toward the tomb.)*

**ACTION:** *Lazarus gets up and starts to walk out of the tomb.*

**TEACHER:** It is amazing....God answered Jesus' prayer!!

Lazarus came out of the tomb. Can you believe it – a man who was dead for 4 days is now alive again!

I wonder what you would do if you saw a person who was dead for 4 days come out of a tomb dressed in white cloths? *(Shocked? Excited? Overwhelmed realizing who Jesus really was as he had power over death)*

Well, because Jesus showed that he had power to bring Lazarus back to life from death, many people believed in Jesus. People believed that Jesus truly was the Son of God and they started to experience new life as they believed and followed him.

**TEACHER:** We are learning important lessons in our Bible stories. Jesus is the Son of God and has power over death. Jesus gives us new life when we believe and follow him (being born again by the Holy Spirit) and we also receive eternal life, which means when we die, we will live with him forever.

### **SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What do we learn about Jesus in this story?** (He brought a dead man back to life. He raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus cares about our faith and loves us, just as he did for his friends, Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Jesus is the Son of God who has power to give life. He said that he is the resurrection and the life.)

- **Why were Mary and Martha sad?** (Their brother Lazarus was very sick and died.)
- **When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, what does it tell us about Jesus?** (That he is truly the Son of God and that God his Father gave him power over death and to give life.)
- **When people saw Lazarus alive again, what did they think?** (Many realized that Jesus was the Son of God and had power over death and could give them new life.)
- **How does this story help us to live today?** (We can trust that Jesus has power over our lives too, now and forever. All the wonderful things in our life are from him and whenever we are in a bad situation, we can call on God to help us.)

**Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):**

Just like Martha and Mary, we need to call out to Jesus in all of our difficult or sad times because Jesus has power over everything, even life and death.

Can you think of a time when Jesus has comforted you, or given you hope? Perhaps when you lost something or someone special to you.

We can talk to Jesus right now because he cares and has the power and love to help us and make things right.

Lead the children in a time of prayer.

## 5 | Response Activities

### Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.



Mary and Martha tending to the sick Lazarus

Jesus said to her,  
"I am the  
resurrection and the  
life. He who  
believes in me will  
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dies."

(John 11:25)