



OCTOBER 25, 2026

JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

JOHN 11

CHRIST CONNECTION

By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed He is the Messiah, the Son of God, who gives eternal life. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why do we need to be born again? Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.

MEMORY VERSE

John 11:25



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The basic premise of our existence is that we were created to be in a right relationship with God and to glorify His name. Even our most difficult circumstances and life events can be conduits for glorifying God. And yet, in the story of Lazarus' resurrection, we see the tension that often comes in the life of people who trust Jesus but are also struggling with their present circumstances.

John 11 begins with Jesus hearing that Lazarus is dying. Yet, Jesus stays where He is two more days (John 11:6). The text uses the verb *menō*—"to remain, to stay, to abide." It is not the stillness of indifference but the stillness of intention. Jesus is not delayed; He is deliberate. This is the same Greek word that Jesus would use in John 15 to describe what should mark our relationship with Him: "Remain in me" (John 15:5). In both places, the Bible is describing deliberate action.

Some of the deepest struggles in our spiritual lives form around the question, "What do I do when Jesus doesn't move at the speed of my pain?" Mary and Martha cried out for help. They knew Jesus loved them. They also had witnessed Him heal numerous people, and they knew that if He would get there in time, everything would be okay. But the clock kept ticking, and Lazarus kept slipping away. What they interpreted as Jesus' absence was preparation for a greater revelation.

Jesus eventually told His disciples exactly why He waited. He said: "It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). Jesus knew that a greater story was being written, a resurrection story.

When Jesus finally arrived, Martha ran to Him saying, "Lord, if You had been here ..." This statement is similar to the words the disciples would later share on the road to Emmaus when they reflected on Jesus' crucifixion and said, "We had hoped ..." In both instances, Jesus knew that God would be glorified in a mighty way through resurrection.

This week, point kids to the highs and lows in this story. Remind them that our compassionate God identifies with our pain and went to great lengths to one day make all things right again through His life, death, and resurrection.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or practice the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,”

John 11:25 ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with the kids.

Note: Bible Bucks day is TODAY!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

Jesus had good friends named Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. One day, Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message saying, "Lazarus, who You love, is very sick."

When Jesus heard this news, He said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Then Jesus stayed where He was for two more days.

Then Jesus told His disciples, "Let's go to Judea, where Lazarus lives." The disciples were nervous to travel to Judea because people lived there who wanted to kill Jesus. However, one of the disciples named Thomas encouraged the other disciples to follow Jesus.

When Jesus arrived in Judea, Lazarus had been in a tomb for four days. Martha came to Jesus and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I believe You are the Son of God."

Jesus said, "Your brother will live again."

Martha said, "I know he will live again at the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after they die. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never really die."

Mary came and cried at Jesus' feet. Jesus was deeply moved and wept with His friends. He loved Lazarus and His friends very much.

Then Jesus went to the tomb. He told the people to roll away the stone covering the entrance. Martha was worried because Lazarus had been dead for several days and the tomb would smell.

Jesus prayed to God. Then He shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus walked out of the tomb! He was wrapped in cloth, but he was alive!

Everyone was amazed. They saw that Jesus has power over death.

CHRIST CONNECTION: By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed He is the Messiah, the Son of God, who gives eternal life. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever.

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

GAME: "MUMMY" RACE

Divide kids into teams of 2-3 and give each team a roll of toilet paper. Have each team choose one person to be "Lazarus." When you say GO, teams race to wrap their Lazarus from head to toe in toilet paper like burial cloths. The first team to completely wrap (used the entire roll of toilet paper) their Lazarus wins!

If time and supplies allow, give kids the chance to switch places and go again!

CONNECT THE DOTS

Lazarus had been dead for four days when Jesus arrived, but death was no match for Jesus! When Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb, Lazarus came out alive and still wrapped in his burial cloths. This game reminds us that Jesus has power over death and gives us new life!

BIBLE SKILLS: SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Spend time working on scripture memory! Help kids memorize scripture by sharing techniques including writing it down, putting the verse on a sticky note somewhere you'll see it every day, etc. If you have a way that helps you memorize scripture then share it with them!

Encourage the kids participating in the 100 verse challenge to continue to work through the list of verses in the folder!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. Why do you think Jesus waited to go to Lazarus?
2. What can the story of Jesus raising Lazarus teach us about waiting for God's timing?
3. What does this story show us about how God loves and cares for His children?
4. How can believers have hope even when someone they love dies?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!