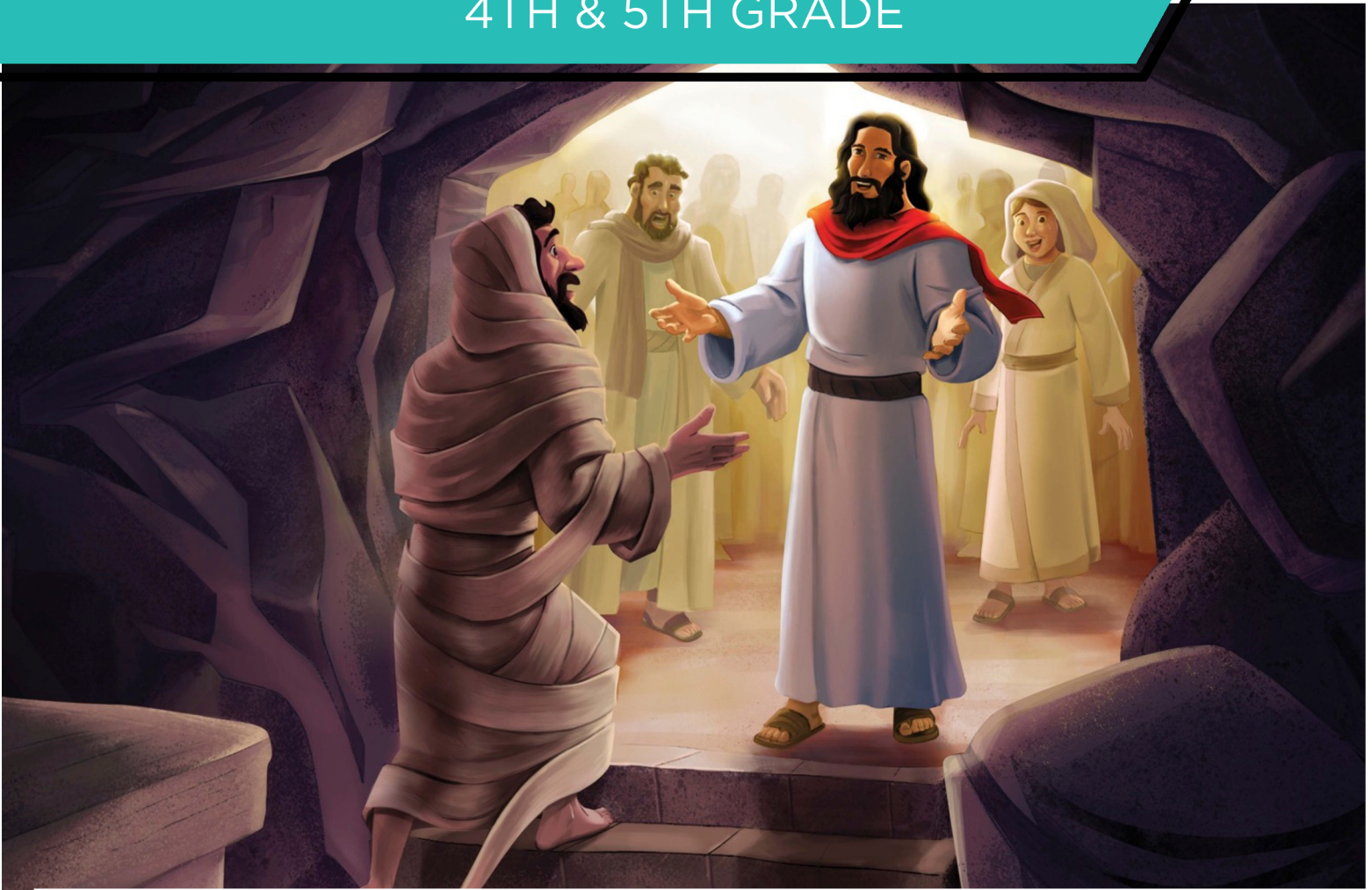


PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.

LEADER DEVO

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.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S 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



NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

TODAY!

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: BIT BY BIT

When learning longer verses or entire passages, don't try to memorize the entire thing at once! Take it bit by bit and break the verse/passage up into smaller chunks. Start with the first five words and focus only on those. Once you have those memorized, add another five or so words, and so on.

LESSON

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.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 1) Why did Jesus wait to go to Lazarus? What was His purpose in waiting?
- 2) What can this story teach us about waiting for God's timing?
- 3) How can believers have hope even when someone they love dies?
- 4) Is it possible to be sad and have hope at the same time? How can we acknowledge our sadness while still trusting God and holding on to the hope He gives us.

We may think that having hope means we can't feel sad, but that isn't true. God gives us our emotions and feeling sad is not wrong. We can often feel multiple emotions at the same time—even ones that seem to be opposites!

- 5) What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? (See John 14:6)

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!