

LOGOS—At home Bible Study for week of Mar 27

Lent 5

Lazarus

Scripture Reference: John 11:1–45

Lesson Focus for younger children: Jesus loved his friends.

Opening activity:

Supplies: Set out a small bowl/cup half-filled with water, a carton of salt, and a couple of spoons.

- Have you cried? (Everyone cries.)
- Have you ever tasted your tears? Pause, for responses. What do tears taste like? (They're salty.)
- Do you think we could make tears or a liquid like tears? Pause. Let's try an experiment.
- What kind of liquid do you think is in the two bowls? (water)
- Why do you think it is water? (It's clear. It has no odor.)
- What's in this container? (salt)
- Add a spoonful of salt to bowl.
- What do you think will happen to the salt when we stir the salt and water? (The salt will disappear or dissolve.) Allow your child to stir.
- What do you think this mixture will taste like? (salty)
- Let's take a little sip. Do you think the mixture we made tastes like tears? Affirm responses. In today's Bible story, lots of people cry—even Jesus cries. But the story has a surprise ending. I can't wait to read it with you!

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Some kids are crying right now.

We pray for kids in the hospital.

Please help these kids to get better soon.

We pray for kids who live in places of war.

Please keep these kids safe and help them to find food.

We pray for kids who are sad in their homes.

Please help these kids to find family and friends to talk to.

Thank you being our friend,

And for loving us whenever we are sad.

Amen

Open the Bible:

Today's Bible story is called Lazarus. Lazarus lived with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. All three of them were Jesus' good friends. But in this story, something very sad happened, so sad that it made Jesus cry. Let's listen to find out what made Jesus so sad.

Read the scripture passage. If you have the Spark Story Bible Lazarus is on pages 440–443.

Who knows what a mime is? Affirm responses. A mime is someone who acts out a story without saying a word. Our Bible story today is filled with actions that we can mime. I'm going to read the story a second time. Whenever I stop, think about the words I just read. Then follow my actions as we mime the story together. What do mimes do? (act) What don't mimes do? (talk)

- Mary and Martha crying (Rub your eyes and make a sad face.)
- Mary shaking Jesus lightly when she says, "Jesus, if you had been here . . ." (Move both hands as if you are gently shaking someone's shoulders.)
- Jesus weeping (Rub eyes and make a sad face.)
- Mary, Martha, and Jesus walking to the tomb (Sadly shuffle in place.)
- Rolling the stone away (Ask a kid to model a somersault for the rest of the class.)

- Jesus shouting (Cup hands around mouth and lean forward.)
- Lazarus trying to run out with burial cloths wrapped around his legs (Keep your knees together as you take tiny steps in place.)
- All the people laughing, singing, and dancing around (Jump up twice and twirl around in place twice.)

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions?

1. Why didn't Jesus come to Mary and Martha's house sooner? (Jesus was on a long journey. He had to walk to their house, so it took a few days.)
2. What did the people think when Lazarus came out of the tomb? (They were frightened and amazed. Then they laughed, and sang, and danced.)
3. Tell about a time when you felt sad for your friend. Affirm all responses.

Jesus loved his friends. Three of his best friends were Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Then Lazarus died. Jesus cried with his friends. Then Jesus gave Lazarus a new life!

Who are your friends? What do you like to do together? Invite kids to talk about their friends and the things they like to do with their friends. Assure kids that sisters, brothers, and cousins can be our friends.

- draw a picture of one thing that you like to do with a friend. Encourage them to talk to you about their drawings, while they work. Tell the kids about things you liked to do with your friends when you were their age.

Fun Activity

Lazarus Cookies

Bake gingerbread cookies together. Cut a fruit roll up into strips or use a Fruit by the Foot candy for the burial clothes. Review the story. As the story is told have the children wrap their Lazarus gingerbread cookie. When they get to the part where Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, have the children unwrap Lazarus. Once the story is over, the children can enjoy a fun snack.

Closing and Prayer:

We learned that Jesus had friends, like you and I have friends. We learned that Jesus loved his friends. Today we learned the big parts of our story. Let's count them on our fingers: 1. Lazarus died, 2. Jesus cried, and 3. Lazarus came alive.

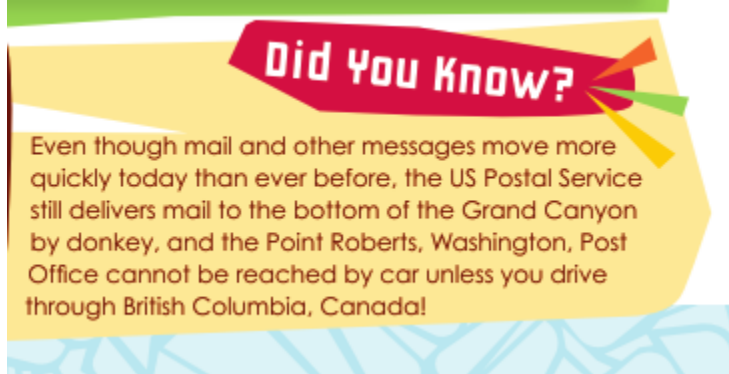
Jesus prayed for his friends. This is a bouncing-ball prayer. With your family in a circle, bounce the ball to another member of the family and say the name of a friend you'd like to pray for saying: "God be with my friend [Name]," and bounces the ball. After everyone gets a turn (or several), retrieve the ball and add an Amen.

Lesson Focus for older children: Live now, live forever.

Introduce the topics of healing and life through these questions. Be sensitive.

- Who's someone you know that has been healed? Do you know anyone who's been healed when it wasn't expected?
- Did the healing change this person?
- Why are we so happy about a healing? We don't live forever, so isn't healing a temporary thing? How can it be a lasting thing?
- What are some ways we're healed that don't have to do with our physical bodies? How can our lives be healed, and not just our bodies?

Share this did you know?



Ask: Were these facts surprising to you?

- How would your life change if you couldn't send emails or text messages, but had to wait a long time for your message to reach someone?

I'm glad we have a God that we can talk to anywhere, anytime. Today's prayer will be different from our traditional prayer.

Prayer

Supplies

- Paper
- Envelopes
- Postage stamps

Give a sheet of paper and envelope for your child(ren). Explain that they will be writing a letter to God. Encourage your child to ask God for healing in specific areas of his/her life.

Once his or her prayer letter is written, have them seal the prayers up and address the letters to themselves. Collect the letters and return the sealed envelope to them mail sometime later in the week. Next week, bring the topic up again and ask: "where has God been healing their lives?"

Open the Bible

Supplies: Fragrant spices (optional)

Together, read the scripture.

Ask kids to find John 11:1–45 on pages 1186–1187 in the Spark Bible (or this passage in your home Bible). As I read today's story, I'd like you to note the things in this story that you think have to do with either life or death. Mark each "life thing" with a drawing of a flower, and each "death thing" with a black spot.

As the leader, you can be on the lookout for some of the following. But there are no wrong answers.
Death: illness, night, sleeping, tombs, weeping, stink

Life: perfume, love, daylight, resurrection, Jesus

Read the story slowly to allow kids to mark the life and death things in their Bibles.

- Is this a story about life or death? Why?
- What does this story show us about who Jesus was? Did he care about Lazarus? Why do you say that?

If you've had a chance to collect fragrant spices, and if you have time, try this to drive the story home. Smell is one of those senses that has to do with both life and death. What smells do we find in today's story? (perfume, a dead body) Let's smell some of these things. Pass around the fragrant spices and let each kid take a whiff. Which of these things might be something that Jesus smelled when he was on Earth?

CRAFT:

Optical Forever Art

Kids create an optical illusion art piece as they remember, "live now, live forever."

Supplies:

- White paper
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Pens or pencils
- Markers
- Glue
- Construction paper

Set Up:

Cut white paper into 7-inch (18 cm) squares, one per kid.

Instructions:

Like Lazarus, we can beat death with Jesus' help. If we believe in Jesus, we can live forever with God. Today, you'll make a piece of optical art that looks like it goes on forever to remind you of what Jesus can do for us.

1. Provide each kid with a 7-inch (18 cm) square piece of paper.
2. Show kids how to use a ruler to make a diagonal line connecting two opposite corners of the square, then another diagonal line connecting the remaining two opposite corners, forming an "X" where the two lines intersect in the middle of the square.
3. Direct the kids to use a ruler and markers to draw progressively smaller squares (starting at the outer edges and working toward the center), using the "X" lines as corners. The technique is most effective if each kid chooses one color for the entire project. Invite each kid to use his or her favorite color.
4. Once they're finished drawing in their squares, ask the kids if they see a hallway that goes on forever in the picture. Some kids may see the top of a pyramid. Coach them to try to look at the picture the other way around, as if it's travelling into the center rather than building outward or upward toward the center.
5. Invite the kids to choose a piece of construction paper on which they can mount their artwork. Direct them to write on the bottom of the construction paper: "With Jesus, I live forever."

Lazarus beat death with Jesus' help, and so can we. With Jesus, we can live forever with God. Live now, live forever!

**might also want to check out the Fun Activity in the younger kids lesson

Closing Conversation and Prayer:

If the Easter story is about Jesus' divinity, what's this story about? (Yes, Jesus' divinity, but also his humanity.)

- How is Jesus a real human being in this story? (It takes a while for a message to reach him, his life is in danger, he is moved to weeping.)

- How is Jesus divine in this story? (He raises Lazarus, he knows Lazarus is dead before he gets there, he is the resurrection and the life!)
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus was a human, like us, as well as God?

I'm glad Jesus lived as both a human being and God. That means he knew what it was like to be a person, like me, but was also powerful enough to raise the dead. It makes both death and life less scary.

- After this story ended, how long do you think Lazarus lived before he died?
- Why do you think Jesus raised Lazarus, if he was going to die again eventually?

It's sad to think that life doesn't last forever. But I'm glad we have a God who helps us live before and after death.

- What's something that God has done in your life that will last for a long, long time?
- What does the phrase "life forever" mean to you?

Closing Prayer

Before the prayer starts, have kids brainstorm a list of big things that would make their life worth living (it's okay to accept selfish, naive answers here).

Pray for the list of things, starting with,

God, we ask for . . .

And then, when you reach the end of the list,

Father, we thank you for having heard us. But we want you to be glorified, so even if we had nothing, we would still trust in you for life, now and forever.

Amen.

Important Messages

Jesus has some good news for Martha and her sister Mary. Imagine Jesus used email to deliver the message. Can you help him tell the good news? Write "Lazarus will live again!" inside this message box! What else is part of your message?

Send	Attach	Save Draft	Cancel
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From:	Jesus
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To:	Mary and Martha
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Subject:	Your Brother Lazarus
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Overlapping Joy(s)

Can you fill in the blanks on these overlapping words to learn more about today's story? The first blank will finish each person's name and the second blank will tell what they did. The letters you use will be the same for both!

LAZA [] overlapping [] **HED**
...out of the tomb

JE [] overlapping [] **TAINED**
...his life

MAR [] overlapping [] **ELLED**
...for her brother

MAR [] overlapping [] **NKED**
...Jesus