Lesson 6

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Objective

Study John 11 - Learn that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after over 4 days. Jesus has power even over death itself.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Jesus Raises Lazarus Activity Sheet (one per student)
- Jesus Raises Lazarus Visual Aid Sheet (one for teacher)

- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Attendance Chart
- Take Home Sheet 3 (one for any student who didn't get one last week)

Optional Supplies

Paper Towel Jesus Raises Lazarus Science Experiment:

- Paper Towel – Cut into 4, 1 cut piece per student
- Paper – Cut into 4, 1 cut piece per student
- Pens – to share
- Scissors – one per student
- Tape – to share
- Balloon or Empty Plastic Bottle or Plastic Cup – one per student
- Towel – to share

Action Games

- Masking Tape – for teacher
- Toilet Paper – one roll for every 3 students

- Snack: Wrap up Lazarus Round Crackers and Stringy Cheese

  - Round Crackers – enough for each student
  - Stringy Cheese or Square Cheese Slices that are bendable and have been cut into long, thin slices that come in plastic wrap (American Cheese) – one per student so students can pull or cut into long thin slices to wrap "Lazarus" the cracker in. **OR**
  - Fruit Roll-Up – one per student if you can't find cheese, but then get biscuit crackers that are sweet to match the sweetness of the fruit roll up.
  - Raisin or Candy Googly Eyes – 1 raisin cut in half or 2 googly eyes per student (if available not necessary)
  - Butter – 1 teaspoon softened so students can dip the back of their "eyes" into the butter to make them stick onto the cracker.

Teacher Tips

★ See Lesson 1 for ideas.

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them, thank them for coming. Take attendance.
Last time we learned that Jesus transfigured (made a complete change in appearance) and talked with Elijah and Moses. God Himself spoke from the cloud and said we should listen to Jesus!

This time we will study that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
Jesus knew Lazarus and his two sisters Mary and Martha. Jesus loved them all and spent time with the family. He helped them and wants to help us too!

2) Class Time - Jesus Raises Lazarus 20-25 minutes

Prep
Have visual aid ready. But don't use it until you get to reading verse 7 and following.

***Today's reading is very long, if your students can't sit through the entire thing, you can stop and have them do the maze activity from the

activity sheet after going through the section below of John 11:1-16 with questions. Then go back to the lesson.

Activity

Let's all get our Bibles and turn to John 11, the only place where this account is told. Thank you to those who brought your own Bible!

Read **John 11:1-6.** Have volunteers take turns, or read yourself.

Mary is the same woman who poured perfume on Jesus' feet to prepare Him for burial which is told in the next chapter. She is the one who sat at His feet and learned from Him when He came to visit their home. Mary and Martha, when they see their brother is sick, know what to do.

What did Mary and Martha do that was wise? They sent word to Jesus.

They knew to go to Jesus to ask for help. The doctors couldn't help, no one else could, they knew they needed Jesus.

What was Jesus' response? This sickness will not end in death. Jesus is not saying that Lazarus won't die, but that the sickness won't end in permanent physical death – he will be restored.

Jesus waited! Even though it says He loved them all, He waited. Do you know why? Because Jesus said there was a greater purpose.

What does Jesus say is the purpose of Lazarus' sickness? So that God and Jesus can be glorified through it.

Christ knew He was going to raise Lazarus and that by so doing, it would once again show that God is God and able to do anything. It proves that Jesus is God in the flesh. It would also strengthen the faith of Mary, Martha and Jesus' disciples.

When does Jesus decide to travel to Bethany? After two days.

Jesus did not rush to Lazarus, this is not because Jesus did not care, but because Jesus knew that in order for this event to glorify God, time needed to pass.

Martha mentions later in verse 39 that Lazarus had been dead 4 days. Therefore, it must have taken the messenger one day to get to Jesus to tell him the news, and one day for Jesus and His companions to travel to Lazarus' family. Add the two days Jesus stayed before travelling and this explains the 4 days.

Just as we see in this case, it is important to remember that we need to work on God's timetable, not our own. Sometimes God delays in answering our requests, not because He doesn't love us, but because He DOES love us.

John 11:7-16 start using visual aid.

Why were Jesus' disciples worried or surprised that He was going back to the Judean region? Because the Jews had tried to stone him.

In verse 16, Thomas states: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." He is referring to Jesus being willing to go to Judea, even if it means death. This is not referring to dying along with Lazarus so they can be raised too ☺ It shows the disciples loyalty and faithfulness to follow Christ, even if it means having to die and even though they didn't fully understand Jesus' sayings, they trusted Him.

What comparisons did Jesus make in verses 9-10? Day and night; walking and stumbling.

When the disciples question Jesus about returning to Judea because of the Jews, Jesus states there are 12 hours in a day. There is enough time to do whatever God wants done. We can always find time for Jesus and should not ever need to hide what we are doing for Jesus. We can walk in the day. Whatever God wants us to get done, we will if we are open and obedient. If we don't follow God's will, we walk in the dark and will stumble.

What word does Jesus call death in verse 11? Sleep.

This doesn't mean Lazarus was only asleep but Jesus calls it sleep because it is not permanent, after we die physically, we live spiritually forever.

Let's read verses 17-27, Jesus meets the family and comforts the grieving sisters.

John 11:17-27

Even though Jesus just told Martha, He will raise her brother, she does not get the connection that He means immediately ☺. This miracle does not happen today, someone rising from the dead after 4 days, but again was a special miracle with a special purpose. And just because today people aren't raised from the dead, doesn't mean God didn't love them, but because He does! He wants them in heaven and we can all be there someday together. Jesus calls Himself the resurrection and the life. Resurrection means being raised from the dead. Jesus is going to prove that He truly is the resurrection and the life by raising Lazarus. This will reinforce His ability to be resurrected Himself after His death and burial. Jesus can and did conquer death and because of it we will be resurrected and we can have life in Him – now and in eternity when we follow and obey Him.

Jesus makes a statement: "The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." Meaning: Even though we will all die physically, unless Jesus returns first, we can live and have life eternally in heaven.
"And whoever lives by believing in me will never die." Meaning: When we choose to live in Christ we will never die spiritually.

What was Martha's confession and truth in verse 27? Jesus is the Christ (Messiah or the Chosen One of God), the Son of God who, at that time, came into the world physically as a man.

John 11:28-37 – continue to show visual aid

What was Jesus' response to her and the other mourners from verse 33 and 35? He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; He wept.

Jesus said He was going to raise Lazarus, so it wasn't because Jesus was sad because Lazarus was dead, He knew He was going to see Lazarus alive in a few minutes! Jesus was sad when He saw the others that were sad. Seeing them sad, made Him sad. When you are sad, Jesus feels sad with you because He loves you so much!

John 11:36-44 – Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

When Jesus asked that the stone be rolled away what was Martha's response? It smells!

She still did not realize that Jesus was about to raise Lazarus.

Before Jesus raised Lazarus what did He do? Prayed to God.
This was to show that God had sent Jesus and approved of Jesus raising Lazarus. Jesus is not requesting power, but thanking God that He already answered His prayer.

In verse 43, what does Jesus command? Lazarus come out!
It is suggested that Jesus had to specify Lazarus by name, otherwise all the dead in that tomb would have come out ☺ Jesus is all-powerful!

What was Lazarus' response? He came out! Even dead men obey Christ – shouldn't we?

This does not mean that Lazarus would live forever, he would die again physically. Jesus is the first person who was ever raised from the dead NEVER to die again. All the other people Jesus raised, would eventually die again physically.

John 11:45-47

Did the Jewish leaders deny His powers in verse 47? No. His greatest enemies admitted it was Jesus who was doing all these amazing miracles! His enemies were eye witnesses and admitted His power.

So what can we learn? Jesus loves you and is sad when you are. He will be there for you when you call Him, like He was for Mary and Martha, though it might take a little time. He will raise up everyone from the dead one day and those who walk in the light will not stumble but go to heaven to be with Jesus forever. We should and can trust and follow Jesus.

3) Optional – Jesus Raises Lazarus Science Experiment 15 minutes

Prep

Gather supplies: paper and paper towel sheet each cut in 4 – one per student, scissors, pens, tape, balloons or empty plastic bottles or plastic cups – something that can create a static charge, a towel.

Activity

We are going to raise a paper Lazarus! We are going to do it using science. God created science and God gave us the wisdom to use science.

Let's all trace a pretend person on our paper towel. (Show students the visual here so they can get an idea of what it should look like and the size.)

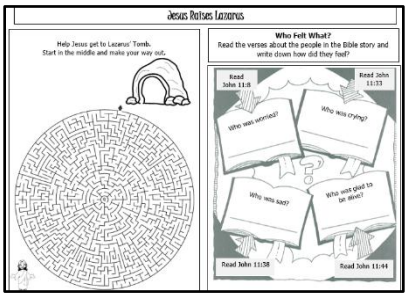
Once you trace Lazarus, draw eyes and a mouth and then cut him out. Peel the layers of paper towel so you only have 1 thin paper. (See the next picture.)

Take one of the pieces and tape the legs to the piece of paper. Then with a slightly inflated balloon or plastic bottle, rub those with a towel to create a static charge. Then move the balloon or bottle over Lazarus and watch him rise!

By rubbing a plastic bottle or balloon with a towel we can create static electricity due to the transfer of electrons between the two materials, a process called charging by friction. When the towel's electrons transfer to the

plastic bottle or balloon, the bottle becomes negatively charged, which can then attract other small, lightweight objects like paper, demonstrating the presence of a static charge. God created science, God created you, and God gave us Jesus to help us. We are blessed!

4) Class Activity – Jesus Raises Lazarus Activity Sheets 20-30 minutes



Hand out one set of sheets to each student along with crayons, pencils, and/or pencil crayons. Go through the sheets, read the instructions and questions aloud as a group. Ask if they have any questions while they do the sheets.

***Because of time, you can choose to do only one or two activities on the sheets and do the other optional crafts or games instead.

Jesus is the greatest man who ever walked the earth. He proved it by raising the dead. Not just someone who died recently, but someone who had been dead for days. Jesus proves He is the Son of God. And if He could raise the dead, and raise Himself, He can definitely raise us from the dead and bring us to Heaven to be with Him when the time comes. Jesus loves you and will take care of you just like He did Lazarus and his family.

Answers to page 1

Who Felt What?
Who was worried? The Disciples
Who was crying? Mary
Who was sad? Jesus
Who was glad to be alive? Lazarus

Acting Out the Story of Lazarus for Fun – Tell the Story
*Decide who will play each part – there is Narrator, Lazarus, Mary, Martha. If you have more than 4 students, you can ask who wants to do round one and then the other group of students can read it again in round 2. Or if you don't have enough for 4 students, you as the teacher can play one of the parts. You can all practice reading your parts first before "acting" them out, if you have time and space to do so.

True or False

T F T T F

Write in the Answers

1. For the glory of God.
2. Yes.
3. Mary and Martha.
4. Life.
5. Christ, God.
6. Said, "Lazarus come out." Or spoke.

Does anyone have any questions about today's event we studied?

5) Optional - Fun Action Games 5-15 minutes

Wrap Lazarus Game – Need Toilet Paper

1. Divide students into teams of two or three.
2. Give each team a roll of toilet paper. Have each team pick one child on the team to be Lazarus.
3. On the word "go" see which team can make the best "Lazarus" in one minute by wrapping the toilet paper around Lazarus.

Repeat as many times as time allows letting each student become Lazarus if they want to. Make sure someone helps "Lazarus" be unwrapped each time if needed and have students clean up before they continue.

Lazarus Come Out, Lazarus Go In Game – Need Tape

Place a line of tape down the middle of your playing area. Designate one side "inside the tomb" and the other side "outside the tomb". Have the students stand anywhere they would like. Tell them that when you say, "Lazarus Come Out", they should all jump to the "outside of the tomb" side of the room. When you say, "Lazarus Go In", they should all jump to the "inside" side of the room. If a student jumps to the wrong side, he is out. You will also jump and try to trick them to jump on the wrong side depending on what you say. When you say "Lazarus go in or go out" always jump to the opposite side. The children may automatically follow you to that side even though you said something different. Keep playing until only one student is left.

6) Optional Snack – Cracker/Cheese Lazarus 5-10 minutes

Prep
Gather crackers and stringy cheese – if you don't have stringy cheese take a fruit roll up cut into long strips, or any other long stringy food item to wrap the cracker in to represent Lazarus. Add eyes (either a raisin cut in half, or store-bought googly eyes dipping the backs in butter so they stick to the cracker if you choose.) If you can't find any of these, ensure the cracker is round and use it to represent the stone that was in front of the tomb.

Hand out round crackers (and if using – stringy cheese or slices of fruit roll up, etc.) to each student.

You've all done a great job this morning learning that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. When Lazarus was in the tomb, they wrapped him in cloth. We are going to take our crackers that represent Lazarus and wrap them with our stringy cheese or fruit roll ups to remind us that Jesus raised Lazarus. Dip, the "eyes" in butter so they stick to Lazarus' face. Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

What was the most important thing you learned today? Why?
How do you think Lazarus felt when he rose from the dead?
Jesus cried, that shows his love and compassion. Do you think God is sad when we are sad?

Clean up before moving on.

7) Optional Activity – Memory Verses 5 minutes

Have the students go to their Bibles and read the verses aloud as a class 2 times. Then include other options such as:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse.
- Have students repeat a small phrase a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other.
- Ask students to think of hand gestures for each section of the verse.

Mark 9:7
And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

John 11:25
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

8) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities/snacks have been cleaned up.

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Write them down to help you remember. Then ask all students to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You God for Jesus Your Son. Thank You that He was willing to do the right things even though people were against Him and wanted to hurt Him. Thank You that Jesus conquered death and that He can raise everyone from the dead. Thank You for offering us a place in Heaven with You one day. We know we will all die physically, but we can all live forever spiritually thanks to Jesus, Your precious Son. May we choose to follow Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life to eternity.

We pray for those who could not come to worship today because of illness or weakness, help them to get better so they can return to us soon.
Thank You for our families, church families, and friends. It is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

9) Things to Remember

Thank the students for coming.
Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.
Take their activity sheets home.
Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!