

Reality – Bible Lesson for March 29, 2020 – Kindergarten – 3rd Grades

Lessons for the Easter Season

Lesson 1: Lazarus

- 1. Lesson: Lazarus**
- 2. Scripture:** John 11:1-44
- 3. Memory Verse:** "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in Me will never die."– John 11:25-26
- 4. The Beginner's Bible:** Pages 418 – 422 (for Kindergarten)
- 5. Materials useful in teaching the lesson - Beginning Activity:** white plate; one or two colors of whiteboard dry-erase markers; water **Craft:** downloaded templates from list below; crayons; markers; colored pencils; glue stick; scissors

Craft Templates:

<https://craftingthewordofgod.files.wordpress.com/2018/03/lazarus-come-to-me.pdf>

Video you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjoCO2iTui8>

1. First Activity: Pray with your children – then introduce the following object lesson that will lead into the Bible story:

"How to Make Drawings Float"

1. All you need is a whiteboard marker and a flat, shiny surface, such as a white plate.
2. Use a whiteboard marker to draw a stick figure on a flat, shiny surface and drop a little water on it. Then you'll see the drawing slowly lift off the surface and become one with the watery bubble.
3. Blow on the puddle and the stick figure will move around.

This works because the ink in a whiteboard marker, unlike a permanent marker, includes an oily silicone substance. Because oil sits on top of water so does this ink, which will also move as the puddle moves. By gently blowing on the puddle the stick figure will swish and dance around according to which way you blow on it.

You can watch a video on how to do the object lesson below:

<https://www.creativekidswork.com/all-ideas/599-503-how-to-make-a-stick-drawing-magically-come-to-life>

Say: It was pretty great – the way we were able to make this drawing come right off the plate...but our story today is about a time when Jesus made a real man, who had died, get up and come right out of the grave. Jesus has power over death because Jesus is God and He knew that it was time for God’s rescue plan to begin.

2. Bible Story: *(Please simplify the story below, as needed. For Kindergarten, you can also read the story from "The Beginner’s Bible": Pages 418 – 422)*

Jesus had been teaching in many places. In Jerusalem, many of the Jewish religious leaders who were listening to Him were becoming angry that Jesus said He was One with the Father. So, Jesus left them and traveled across the Jordan river to the area of Perea, (show this on a map, if you have one) near the place where John the Baptist had baptized Him. There, He continued to teach, and more people put their trust in Him.

During that time, in the city of Bethany, there was a small family of three – two sisters and one brother. They were a very close family and they loved Jesus, who had often been a guest in their home.

Bethany was less than two miles east of Jerusalem, so it would have been filled with people heading to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. It was in Bethany that Jesus did His last public miracle. This miracle is only recorded in the gospel of John but everyone coming that way would have heard about the miracle that was the evidence that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is how the miracle began - One day Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, became very ill. So, the sisters sent word to Jesus that their brother was sick. Jesus loved this family but, when He heard that Lazarus was sick, Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. He knew that this sickness would not end in death. Add the traveling time of the messengers and Jesus together with the two days and you come up with four days. This was the amount of time that Lazarus was dead before Jesus came to him.

Remember that Jesus is in control and His timing is always perfect. Jesus had a good reason for not going right away. He was about to demonstrate His power over death and show to all that He is truly the Messiah. His disciples would also receive another lesson in the importance of having faith in Jesus.

After the time of waiting, Jesus said to His disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” The disciples knew that going to Judea would be dangerous. Jesus was a wanted man in that area. Jesus listened to their warnings, but He spoke of walking in the light – meaning the will of God.

Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep. But I am going there to wake him up." The disciples thought that Jesus meant Lazarus had not died and said, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get better." As was often the case, Jesus was speaking about one thing and the disciples were thinking about another. "So, then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. But let us go to him."

When Jesus and the disciples arrived in Bethany, Martha went to meet them while Mary waited. Martha told Jesus that she believed that He could have healed her brother if He had been there. Jesus told her not to worry because her brother would rise again. Martha didn't understand. She thought that maybe Jesus meant that Lazarus would be alive again when he got to Heaven.

Jesus then proclaimed the fifth of His great "I Am" revelations...**"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26)** Mary answered Jesus by saying, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." By saying this she was telling Jesus that she knew that He is the Christ, the Son of God.

Martha went and got Mary who came, crying, and fell at the feet of Jesus just as she had sat at His feet before. Jesus was very sorry to see Mary so sad, and He wept. He shared this moment of sorrow with His friends. This image of Jesus showed Him as the God of the Bible who is full of compassion and love. He could have resurrected Lazarus from a distance or even prevented him from dying, but He knew that it was the will of the Father that Lazarus would die so that his resurrection would show God's glory.

Jesus asked to be taken to the tomb. Many bodies, back then, were buried in caves. The tombs had a small entrance that was closed by rolling a large stone against it. Jesus knew that the body of Lazarus had been dead in the tomb for 4 days. When He and His disciples arrived at the tomb, Jesus told the people standing there to remove the stone from the tomb.

"But, Lord," said Martha, "by this time there is a bad smell. Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days." Then Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" So, they took away the stone. Jesus looked up and He said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me. But I said this for the benefit of the people standing here. I said it so they will believe that you sent me."

Then Jesus shouted only three words, "Lazarus come out!" People were confused – Didn't He know that Lazarus was dead? Everyone looked at the entrance to the tomb and were amazed at what they saw! Lazarus came out still wearing his grave cloths! Jesus directed the people to take off Lazarus' grave cloths, proving to them that he was alive!

All those who were sad were now happy and rejoicing in the Lord. Jesus is the Messiah – He conquered death. But, after Lazarus was raised from the dead, the chief priests and Pharisees started plotting how to get rid of Jesus. They knew they couldn't deny the miracle, so they decided to get rid of the evidence – to stop the truth about who Jesus is from spreading. Of course, that was impossible because Jesus is the Son of God. He is the resurrection and the life. When Lazarus came out of the tomb, his grave cloths were removed and some day he would face the final death and need them again. **Jesus left His grave cloths behind after His resurrection because He would never need them again.**

3. Bible Exploration – Questions to ask your children about the story:

1. Who was Mary and Martha's brother? (Lazarus)
2. Why did Jesus wait before going to Bethany? (He was doing the will of God in His perfect timing. He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead.)
3. Did Jesus' disciples and friends understand what He was about to do? (No – and they thought going back to Judea was dangerous.)
4. Did Jesus know the full effect His miracle would have on people? [Yes. He knew His believers would understand that He is the Messiah. His enemies would become frightened and angry – knowing that His authority was greater than theirs (and they would start seeking a way to get rid of Him)]
5. What was Jesus' fifth "I Am" statement? (I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die.)
6. What does this great "I Am" statement mean to you?

4. Bible Application:

Crafts:

Elementary: Lazarus Come To Me



Instructions

1. Print the template.
2. Color and cut out both pieces.
3. Cut on both of the dotted white lines.
4. String the long rectangular piece through the cut dotted lines so that Lazarus starts out small and gradually gets bigger.

5. Memory Verse: Have the children say the memory verse one more time – “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in Me will never die.”– John 11:25-26

Play – My Part is Coming

You will say the first phrase of the verse. Your child (or children) will say the second part of the verse, you will say the third part of the verse, etc. This continues through all six parts of the verse. Finally, the last turn says the reference (the seventh part). The process involves seven turns. Do this several times so everyone has a chance to say part of the verse. You can break it apart like this...1 –“Jesus said to her”...2 – “I am the resurrection and the life.”...3 – “Anyone who believes in Me will live”...4 – “even if they die.”...5 – “and whoever lives by believing in Me”...6 – “will never die.” 7 - “John 11:25-26”

6. Closing Prayer: Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have.