

# Jesus Raises Lazarus Craft

Loose him, and let him go · John 11:1–44 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

## What it looks like finished



**Easy and medium**

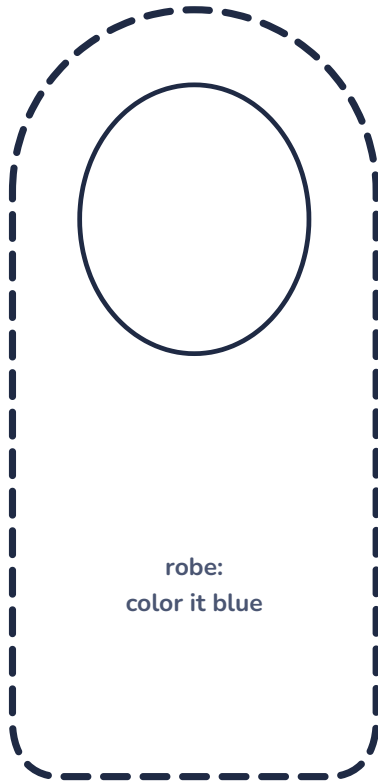


**Harder**

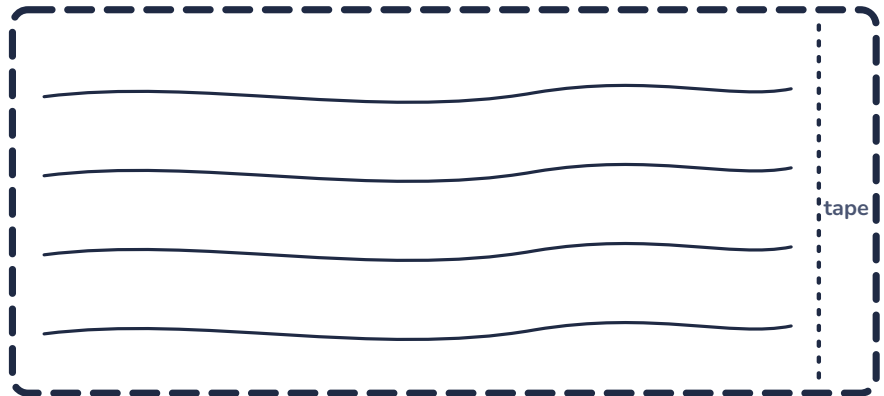
Both levels are a Lazarus stick puppet: a tall rounded piece with his face drawn in the window and his robe colored blue, taped on a craft stick. The white graveclothes and napkin loops lie beside him, slid off, because Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go" (John 11:44). Medium (left): the puppet and the two loops. Harder (right): the same, with the cave card on the table above him, the doorway cut open and the stone taken away (11:38–41).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



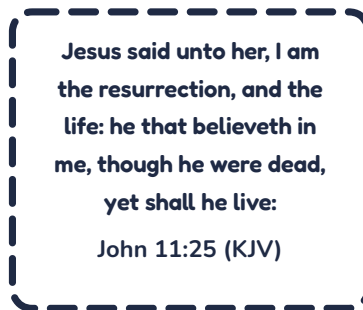
Lazarus: draw his  
face in the window



graveclothes: leave white. Wrap around Lazarus, tape into a loop.



napkin: leave white. Wrap around his face, tape into a loop.



verse strip: glue on the back

Tape the craft stick on  
the back of Lazarus,  
under the verse strip.

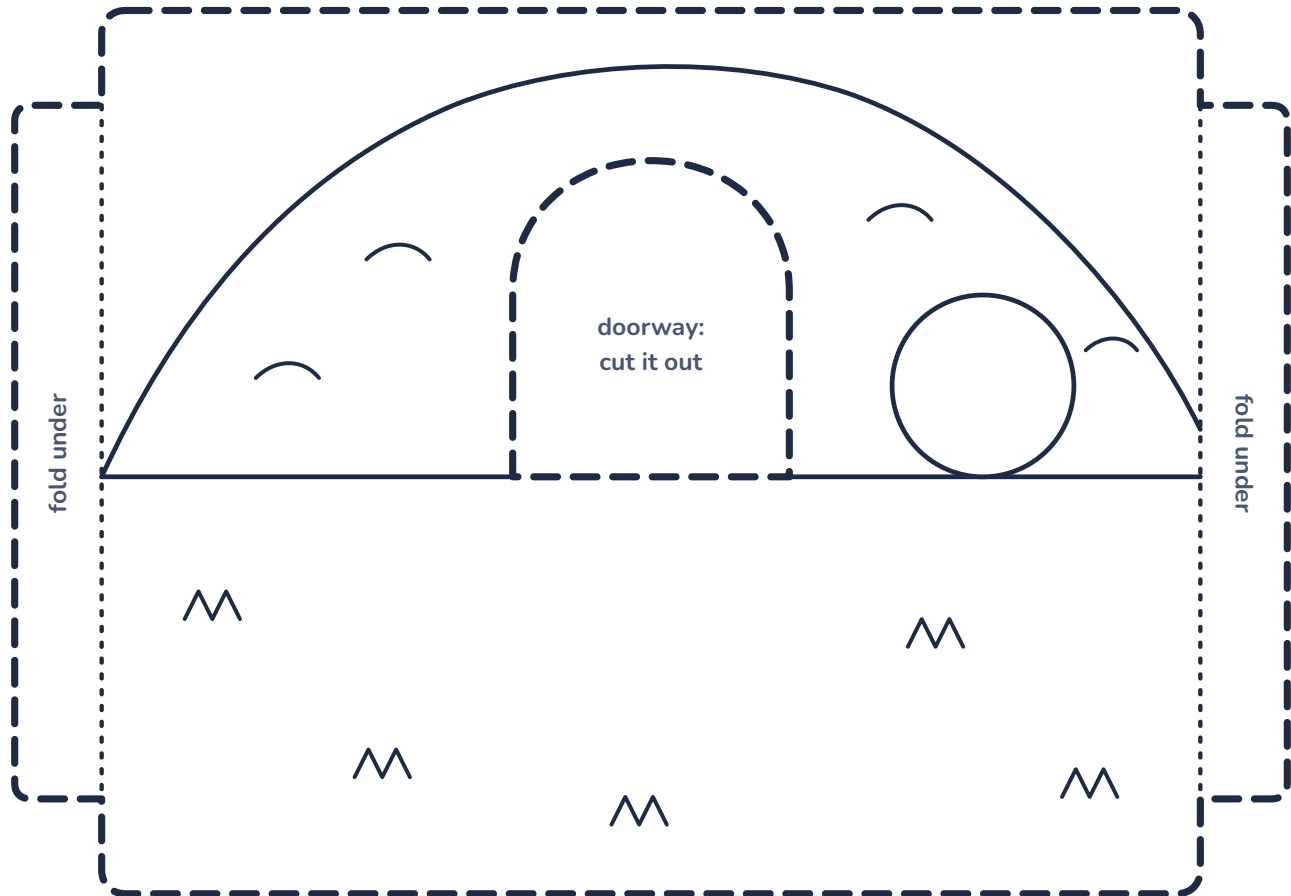
Color the robe blue and draw Lazarus' face in the window. Leave the graveclothes, the napkin and the verse strip white. Cut out all four pieces. You also need a craft stick, tape and a glue stick.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

✂ Harder level

**Cave card (harder level)**

Cut on the dashed lines, and cut out the doorway. Fold the side tabs under.



sky light blue, hill gray, stone gray, ground light brown, grass green

**How to add the cave**

1. Make Lazarus with his graveclothes and napkin from page 2 first.
2. Color the cave card: the sky light blue, the hill gray, the round stone gray, the ground light brown and the grass green. Cut it out on the dashed lines. Then cut out the doorway (a grown-up can start the cut).
3. Fold the two side tabs under on the dotted lines, so the card stands a little off the table like a bridge.
4. Tell it: slide Lazarus under the card from the bottom edge until his napkin shows in the doorway. The stone is taken away (John 11:41). "Lazarus, come forth" (11:43): pull him out by the stick. "Loose him, and let him go" (11:44): slide off the napkin and the graveclothes.

## For the teacher

**See it finished:** a photo of the finished craft is at [vbshq.com/crafts/lazarus-craft](http://vbshq.com/crafts/lazarus-craft)

**Time:** 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels

**You need:** page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one craft stick per child, a blue crayon or marker, crayons for drawing the face, scissors, clear tape and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and light blue, gray, light brown and green crayons.

**Before class:** for preschoolers, cut out Lazarus, the graveclothes, the napkin and the verse strip ahead of time. Glue the verse strip on the back of Lazarus, tape the craft stick below it, and tape the graveclothes and the napkin into loops that slide on and off easily.

## Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces, glue on the verse, tape on the stick and make the loops. Kids color the robe and draw the face. Slide the loops on for them, and let them pull them off on "Loose him, and let him go."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut, glue and tape; a grown-up helps wrap the loops. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make Lazarus like the medium level. Then add the cave card from page 3, with the doorway cut open and the stone taken away. Lazarus slides under it and comes forth. This is the craft in the second photo.

## Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the robe part of the Lazarus piece (everything below the window) blue. Leave the graveclothes, the napkin and the verse strip white.
2. **Draw:** in the window, draw Lazarus' face, happy and alive, because Jesus called him out of the grave (John 11:43–44).
3. **Cut:** cut out Lazarus, the graveclothes, the napkin and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Verse and stick:** turn Lazarus over. Glue the verse strip on the back, at the top. Tape the craft stick on the back below it, so most of the stick hangs down below his feet.
5. **Wrap him:** wrap the graveclothes around his robe and the stick, and tape the end down on the dotted tape spot so it makes a loop. Tape it only to itself, not to Lazarus. Make the napkin into a loop around his face the same way.
6. **Verse:** read the verse strip together.
7. **Tell it:** hold Lazarus down low. Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone" (John 11:39). Then He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth" (11:43): lift Lazarus up high! He came out bound with graveclothes, and his face bound with a napkin. Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go" (11:44): slide the napkin off over his head and the graveclothes down off the end of the stick.

## Questions to ask while kids work

- Who were Lazarus' sisters, and where did they live? (*Mary and Martha, in Bethany, John 11:1*)
- What did the sisters tell Jesus? (*"Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick," 11:3*)
- How long had Lazarus been in the grave when Jesus came? (*Four days, 11:17*)
- What did Jesus tell Martha? (*"I am the resurrection, and the life," 11:25*)
- What did Jesus do when He saw Mary weeping? (*Jesus wept, 11:33–35*)
- What was the grave, and what lay on it? (*A cave, and a stone lay upon it, 11:38*)
- Lift Lazarus up. What did Jesus cry with a loud voice? (*"Lazarus, come forth," 11:43*)
- Slide off the loops. What did Jesus say? (*"Loose him, and let him go," 11:44*)

## Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** **behold** means look; **sleepeth** means is asleep (Jesus' gentle word for death, 11:11); **resurrection** means coming back to life; **wept** means cried; **come forth** means come out; **graveclothes** are strips of cloth wrapped around a body; a **napkin** is a cloth; **loose him** means unwrap him and set him free.
- **What the Bible says:** the grave "was a cave, and a stone lay upon it," and "they took away the stone" (John 11:38, 11:41). The Bible doesn't say how they moved it, so the cave card simply shows it set aside. Lazarus came out still wrapped, and Jesus told the people to loose him (11:44).
- **Gentle, not spooky:** call the strips graveclothes, the Bible's word, and keep the focus on Lazarus alive and set free. This is not a costume or dress-up craft.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** each child draws Lazarus' face in the window. Mary and Martha are not in the craft.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and make the loops loose so they slide off easily. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child say, "Lazarus, come forth!" and pull off the graveclothes.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Lazarus lesson and word search at [vbshq.com/bible-stories/lazarus](http://vbshq.com/bible-stories/lazarus).