

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is stronger than death. Jesus cares about me.

Bible passage: John 11:1–44. Read it yourself before class.

Memory verse: "I am the resurrection, and the life" *John 11:25 (KJV)*. The old word **resurrection** means coming back to life.

You need: a Bible, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at John 11. Clear a space on the floor so the kids can lie down.

1. Opening game: Wake Up! (5 minutes)

Everyone lies down and pretends to sleep. Snore softly together! Then call one child by name: "Ben, wake up!" That child jumps up and stands by you. Keep going until everyone is up. Say: "You heard your name! Today we will hear a true story about a man Jesus called by name."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 11. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Lazarus had two sisters, Martha and Mary (John 11:1). *(Hold up two fingers.)*

Jesus loved them all (11:5). *(Hug yourself.)*

Lazarus got very sick (11:1). *(Lay your head on your hands.)*

His sisters sent for Jesus (11:3). *(Wave "come here.")*

Lazarus died. He was in the grave four days (11:14, 11:17). *(Hold up four fingers.)*

Jesus came. He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life" (11:25). *(Point up.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus gives life!"

Mary was crying. Jesus cried too (11:33, 11:35). *(Rub your eyes.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus cares!"

The grave was a cave with a stone on it (11:38). *(Make a big round stone with your arms.)*

Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone" (11:39). *(Push hard.)*

Jesus called with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" (11:43). *(Hands by your mouth.)*

Lazarus came out! He was wrapped in cloths (11:44). *(Hug yourself tight.)*

Jesus said, "Loose him, and let him go" (11:44). *(Throw your arms open wide.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is stronger than death!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who was Jesus' friend who got sick? (*Lazarus, John 11:1, 11:11*)
2. What did Jesus do when Mary was crying? (*Jesus cried too, 11:35*)
3. What did Jesus say at the grave? (*"Lazarus, come forth," 11:43*)

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection, and the life.' Resurrection means coming back to life." Teach the motion: crouch down low, then jump up high on "resurrection," and throw your arms out wide on "life." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "John 11:25" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Jesus made Lazarus alive again. Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Lazarus Comes Out (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big round stone rolled to one side and Lazarus coming out, happy and alive. While they color, ask: "Who cried with His friends? Who called Lazarus out?" Kids who finish early can play Wake Up! again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, Jesus, for caring when I am sad.

Thank You that You are stronger than death. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: tell the story gently. "Lazarus died" is enough; little ones don't need more. Keep the happy ending big: Lazarus came out alive! Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is sad about someone who died: let them talk, and say it is all right to be sad: Jesus cried too (John 11:35), and He cares. Don't guess about any person. Let the child's parents know.

