

# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 4 - "Is It Too Late For My Miracle?"



**Whatchagaddaknow?:**  
"God's Never Too Late For My Miracle!"



**Power Verse:**  
"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.'"

**-John 11:25**

### Retelling The Bible Story

#### SUPPLY LIST:

\* Bible (one for whole group to share)

#### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, review the Bible Story so you are familiar with the main points and order of events. When small group begins, turn to John 11 in the Bible. As you speak to the kids, emphasize the word "TIME." To review the Bible Story, hand the open Bible to one kid, have them read the first four verses in John 11, and then have them pass the Bible to another kid who will then read the next four verses. Continue passing the Bible and allowing the kids to read until the story is complete. Depending on the size of your group, some kids may need to read multiple times.

**Say** - It's about TIME that you showed up! TIME with you is something I really love. Now that we are all here, it is TIME for us to begin. Today is all about, if you hadn't already guessed, TIME! My Bible is opened to John 11, which is where our story is found. To review our story, I will hand the Bible to one of you. Read the first four verses. When you have completed four verses, your TIME is up, and it is TIME for you to pass the Bible to someone else. They will read the next four verses and then pass the Bible along. We will continue this way until the story is complete!

**-Pass the Bible to the first reader and begin; pass the Bible along every four verses until the story is complete-**

**Say** - That was great! I love hearing you guys read God's Word! Everyone thought that Lazarus was out of time. They thought saving Lazarus was a race against time and that Jesus had lost the race.

**Ask** - Why do you think Mary and Martha were feeling so hopeless?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - Why do you think Jesus waited? Why didn't He go to help Lazarus right away?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - Did Jesus lose the race against time?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

## Game/Activity

### SUPPLY LIST:

- \* Race Against Time Print Piece (provided; print one per team)
- \* Scissors (several pairs for the group to share)

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Race Against Time Print Pieces. Divide the group into teams, and give each team a set of print pieces and some scissors. Instruct them to cut out the numbers. Then, have the teams mix up their numbers and bring them all to you. Once you have collected all the numbers, mix them together to make one big number pile. Place the mixed-up number pile in front of you on the floor. To play the game, team members will take turns racing to collect one number, returning to their group, and placing it on their clock. If they choose a number that their clock already has, they must repeat the process to get a new number. The first team to correctly complete the clock wins. This can be played multiple rounds as time allows. Race Against Time is a fun activity that will help reinforce the lesson concepts!

**Say** - I am dividing you all into teams and giving you a set of game papers. One is a picture of an incomplete clock, and the other contains the numbers to complete the clock. Cut out the numbers and mix them up. Once your numbers are cut out, bring them to me.

**-Allow time for the teams to complete this activity-**

**Say** - Now that I have everyone's numbers, it is almost time to begin. Normally, I would take the numbers and place them in piles individually, one set for each team, but that seems way too easy. I think you are ready for a challenge, so I am going to combine all of the numbers into one big pile! One at a time, your team members will race and choose one number from the pile. Take it back to your team, and place it on the correct spot on your clock. If you accidentally choose a number that is already in place, you must go back to the number pile, return the number you chose, and select a different number. The first team to correctly complete their clock wins!

**-Play Race Against Time; this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-**

## Group Sharing

### SUPPLY LIST:

- \* Time Print Piece (provided; print one set)
- \* Bibles (for the group to share)
- \* Pencils, crayons, or markers

### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Time Print Piece. Once group sharing begins, divide the kids into four groups and give each of them a Bible, a Time Print Piece, and something to write with. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

**Say** - Mary and Martha lost hope because they thought that Jesus had lost the time race. They thought it was too late for their brother. They were wrong! There is never a race against the clock with Jesus. With Jesus, all things are possible - at all times. However, it can be tough to remember this whenever you are hurting.

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**Ask** - Is Jesus trustworthy even if He doesn't heal us right away? Why or why not?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Ask** - How can we trust Jesus' timing for our healing?

**-Allow time for the kids to respond; discuss their answers with the group-**

**Say** - The Bible is a great reminder that we can trust Jesus even when hope seems lost. I want us to take a few minutes and look at a couple of scriptures that can remind us of this truth. Each group has a card with a scripture. Look up the verse, and read it with your group. Discuss it together, and write any thoughts you have on the back of the card.

**-Allow time for the groups to read and discuss their scriptures-**

**Ask** - Who had Psalm 62:8? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to read their verse aloud and share their thoughts; discuss the verse with the entire group-**

**Ask** - Who had Psalm 27:14? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to read their verse aloud and share their thoughts; discuss the verse with the entire group-**

**Ask** - Who had Isaiah 40:31? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to read their verse aloud and share their thoughts; discuss the verse with the entire group-**

**Ask** - Who had Proverbs 3:5? Please read the verse aloud and share your thoughts with the group.

**-Allow time for the group to read their verse aloud and share their thoughts; discuss the verse with the entire group-**

**Say** - Hope is never lost when Jesus is involved. It's never too late for Jesus to do a miracle!

## **Prayer Time**

**Say** - The Bible is such a great tool. When we are full of fear, feeling hopeless, and dealing with sadness, we can turn to God's Word for strength and encouragement. As we pray, let's tell God how thankful we are for His Word and His perfect timing!

**Pray**

**Closing**

**Say** - It must have been a crazy mix of emotions for Mary and Martha when Jesus arrived. They were happy that Jesus finally arrived, and for a brief moment, they were probably even relieved. Then they remembered that they had just attended their brother’s funeral, and new emotions took over. They were hurt, sad, confused, and even angry. Jesus didn’t get there in time! It was too late. Life can be full of situations that take us to the exact same place that Mary and Martha were. Tough times come, sickness happens, and trouble shows up and has no mercy. It seems too late for hope. We are left feeling hurt, sad, confused, and even angry. Where is Jesus? It may seem like Jesus is too late or absent, but He is not! Jesus doesn’t have to race against the clock. It’s never too late for Jesus to do a miracle. He is not bound by time and circumstance. Jesus is the creator of time! Jesus is the giver of life! Jesus is our healer, provider, protector, and savior. He is there for us, and Jesus can do miracles anytime and anywhere. It’s NEVER too late for Jesus! Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon.



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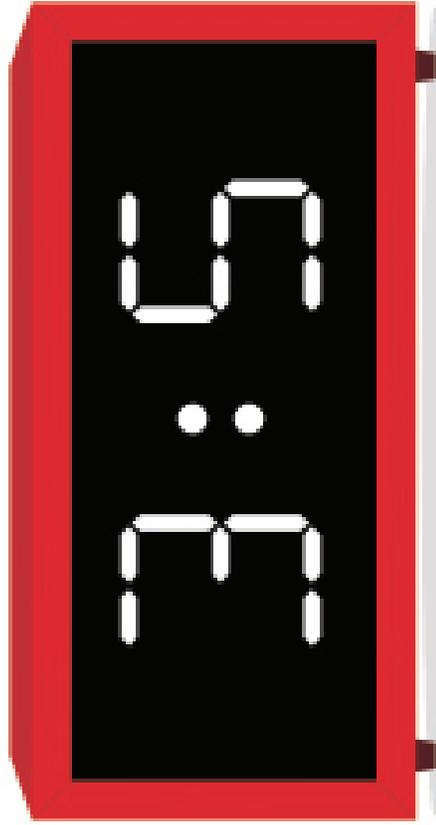
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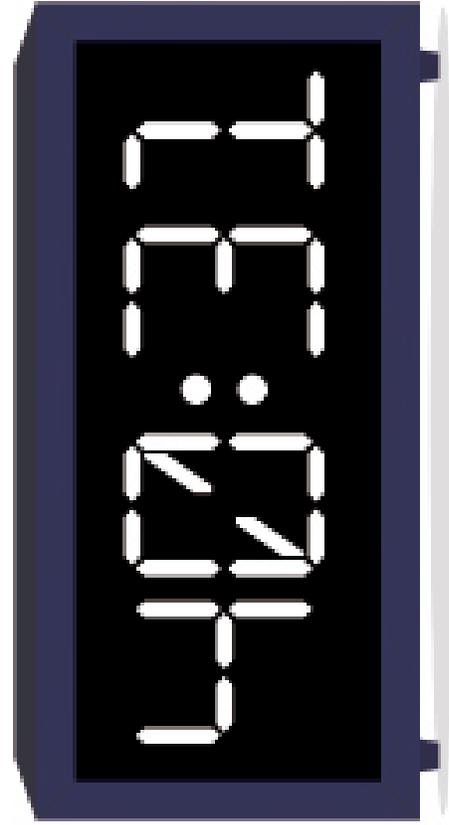
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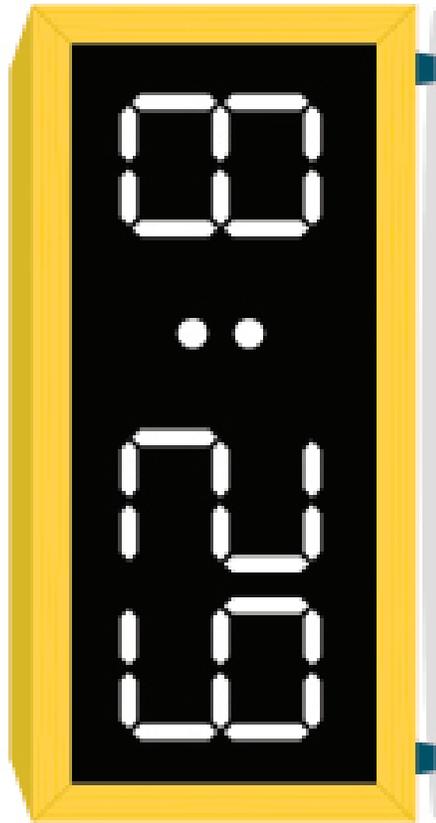
**PROVERBS**



**ISAIAH**



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**PSALM**

