

March 17, 2024

LAZARUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Death

SCRIPTURE: [John 11](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus' friend Lazarus dies, and Lazarus' sisters and friends grieve his death. However, Jesus shows He has power over death when He raises Lazarus to new life.

INTRO ACTIVITY: Rising Bubbles

ACTIVITY: Where Is Lazarus?

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

ACTIVITY: Come Out!

Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more! [WONDER@HOME \(PDF\)](#)



FOR FIVESTONE KIDS LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Death

SCRIPTURE: [John 11](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

Grief brings a wide range of emotions, some of which are unexpected and surprising. It is unpredictable and all-encompassing. Grief, like death, is something you're never truly prepared for.

In [John 11](#), Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary and friend of Jesus, is sick. Both of his sisters informed Jesus that Lazarus was sick. How did Jesus respond to the news? "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it" ([John 11:4](#), [NirV](#)).

After Lazarus' passing, there was a period of mourning for those who knew and loved him. Even Jesus, the One who had power over death, wept ([John 11:35](#)). The pain was palpable and unimaginable. Mary and Martha believed that Lazarus' death could have been prevented if Jesus had shown up earlier.

Jesus felt the weight of death, which He Himself faced not too long after raising Lazarus. However, that weight did not keep Lazarus in the grave. Jesus spoke, and Lazarus walked.

- Have you ever felt the presence of Jesus' humanness in your life?
- How does the pain Jesus felt resonate with you?
- When has Jesus met you in your pain?

The pain of death is real, but so is Jesus' power over it.

—Kathie Phillips

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

Lazarus was a follower of Jesus and a brother to Martha and Mary. Both sisters also appear in [Luke 10](#), which tells the story of Martha's distraction by all of her preparations. Jesus loved this family; His miracle shows God's glory and was also personal.

WHAT?

Jesus did an amazing miracle by raising Lazarus from the dead. Although He knew Lazarus was sick, Jesus waited for him to die because He knew that this miracle would display God's glory and convince many that He was the Messiah.

WHERE?

Martha, Mary, and Lazarus lived in a small town called Bethany, just east of Jerusalem. Jesus had gone back across the Jordan to escape a group who wished to stone Him ([John 10:31–39](#)). He returned to Judea when He heard that Lazarus was sick.

WHEN?

Jesus was headed back toward Jerusalem as the time for His death drew near. The disciples feared Jesus would be killed ([John 11:16](#)). Yet this miracle convinced many more people that He was the Messiah even as it angered those plotting to kill Him.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Raising Lazarus was an astonishing sign of Christ's glory, but Martha was correct to anticipate the day when God will raise those of faith to an eternal life with Him. The same Spirit who raised Jesus will raise those who belong to Christ ([Romans 8:11](#)).

INTRO ACTIVITY: Rising Bubbles

SUPPLIES: bubble solution, bubble wands, bubble machine (optional)

Welcome! I'm so glad you're here! We're going to talk about how Jesus helped someone who was dead rise again. Let's watch these bubbles rise in our room.

Gently blow bubbles around the room or set up a bubble machine for the kids to enjoy as the bubbles rise around the room.

Encourage the kids to stand on tippy-toes or jump up and try to reach bubbles that are high.

ACTIVITY: Where Is Lazarus?

SUPPLIES: cups (3), plastic toy person figure

Are you good at guessing? Let's see if we can guess which cup has a person inside so he can come out. Set out three identical cups. Turn the cups over as pretend caves and hide the plastic toy person figure (Lazarus) under one of the cups.

Allow kids to watch as Lazarus is hidden inside the cave (cup). Quickly shuffle the caves around several times. Once finished, ask kids to guess where Lazarus is hidden.

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Hold hands out to the side.*

HAS POWER—*Hold arms up to flex muscles.*

OVER DEATH.—*Take a giant step.*

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES:

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Lazarus. Encourage the kids to say, "Lazarus." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Lazarus!**

In God's big story today, we'll hear that Jesus is powerful. When you hear those words, raise your hands in the air. Raise your hands above your head and invite the kids to do the same.

One of Jesus' friends was Lazarus. Lazarus became very sick! His sisters, Mary and Martha, asked Jesus for help. Jesus is powerful. Raise hands. **He said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory"** (John 11:4, NIV).

Jesus didn't rush to help Lazarus, and Lazarus died. Everyone was sad that Lazarus had died, but Jesus had a plan! Jesus is powerful. Raise hands. **Jesus would show people that He has power over all things ... even death.**

Finally, Jesus and His disciples came to Lazarus' home. Lazarus had been dead for four days! Martha said that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus wouldn't have died.

Jesus is powerful. Raise hands. **He went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried, and He told the people to roll the stone away from the entrance. Jesus prayed to God and shouted, "Lazarus, come out!"** (John 11:43, NIV). **Out walked Lazarus—alive! He was wrapped in clothes but alive and healed! The people watching discovered that Jesus has power over death!**

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for sending Jesus to love us. Thank You that Jesus is powerful and saves us! In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you always remember that God is more powerful than death. May Jesus' power over death give you strength and hope in your future. And may you always trust that Jesus' death and resurrection perfectly pays for your sins!

ACTIVITY: Come Out!

SUPPLIES: table or chairs, bed sheet or blanket (optional)

Set up a pretend “cave” in your room using tables and chairs (and a bed sheet or blanket, if available). Tell the kids to take turns going into the pretend cave. They can lie down and pretend to be Lazarus. Then when you say, “Come out!” they will come out of the pretend cave and say, “Jesus has power over death!”

In God’s big story today, we heard about how Jesus’ power brought Lazarus back to life! Let’s play a game to help us remember that Jesus is more powerful than anything—even death!