

Use Week of:

## Unit 25 • Session 4

# Jesus Raised Lazarus

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

John 11

### STORY POINT:

Jesus has power over death.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:13-14

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How does God care for His creation?  
God loves and rules over His creation  
according to His perfect plan.



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## LEADER Bible Study

Jesus received word that His friend Lazarus was sick. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha. They lived in the town of Bethany, which was about two miles away from Jerusalem. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus, likely expecting Him to come right away.

Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; yet He stayed where He was, and Lazarus died. Why would Jesus do such a thing? Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness was "for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). He said that He was glad He wasn't there when Lazarus died so that the disciples may believe. (John 11:15) Jesus' timing is always perfect, and He acts—or doesn't act—so that God will be glorified.

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha went to meet Jesus. She said to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." Jesus had shown His power to heal people who were sick. Even still, she believed He could do a miracle.

Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Jesus is the source of life—eternal life that cannot be destroyed by death. Believers do not need to fear death because physical death is not the end. (See John 11:25-26.) Jesus endured death for us so that when we die and are absent from our physical bodies, our souls are with the Lord. (See 2 Cor. 5:8.)

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. His messiahship was clearly on display, and it was Jesus' claims to be the Son of God that would lead to His death on the cross. Jesus interrupted Lazarus's funeral knowing His would soon follow.

Emphasize to kids that when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus Raised Lazarus

*John 11*

**Jesus and Lazarus were friends.** Lazarus lived in the town of Bethany, in Judea, with his sisters, Mary and Martha. **One day, Lazarus got sick. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus. “Lord, Your friend Lazarus is sick,” they said.**

Jesus told His disciples, “Lazarus’ sickness will not end in death. This sickness will bring glory to God and to the Son of God.” **Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. Then Jesus said, “Let’s go back to Judea.”**

**By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in a tomb for four days.** Martha hurried to meet Jesus, but Mary stayed home.

**Martha said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”**

Martha knew Jesus could do a miracle though. “I know God will give You whatever You ask,” she said.

**Jesus replied, “Your brother will rise again.”**

Martha believed that Lazarus would rise from the dead in the future—on the last day. But

**Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?”**



**“Yes, Lord,” Martha said. “I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God.”**

**Martha went back to her house. She told Mary that Jesus wanted to see her.** So Mary left the house, and all the people who had come to comfort Mary and Martha followed her.

**Mary fell at Jesus’ feet and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!” Mary was crying. Jesus wept too.**

**Mary led Jesus to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. It was a cave, and a huge stone covered the opening. “Remove the stone,” Jesus said.**

**So the stone was moved aside. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank You that You heard Me.” Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”**

**Lazarus came out of the tomb, wrapped in linen and cloth. Jesus said, “Unwrap him and let him go.”**

*Christ Connection: When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Move around the room:** As you tell the story, start at one side of the room and move to the other as you tell of Jesus’ journey to Bethany and to the tomb.
- **Use pauses for emphasis:** Set the tone for the story by pausing after dialogue. Build suspense after Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb.

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Raised Lazarus

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** John 11

**STORY POINT:** Jesus has power over death.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Colossians 1:13-14

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss what they would do if they woke up in a dark, smelly cave.

**SAY** • If you woke up in a dark, smelly cave, you might feel afraid. Today, we will learn about a time Jesus brought a man back from the dead after the man had been buried in a cave-like tomb for days! Do you think coming back from the dead might feel like waking up from a long nap?

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Unwrap Laz” activity page. Guide kids to follow the pathway through the winding bandages around Lazarus.

**SAY** • In Jesus’ time, when a person died, family members would wrap the body in strips of cloth, often with fragrant spices and oils. Today we will learn about a man whom Jesus raised from the dead. When he came out of the tomb, he was all wrapped up!

- “Unwrap Laz” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

**Session starter (10 minutes)****OPTION 1:** Good friends

Direct the kids to sit in a circle. Select a kid to start by saying one thing about herself that she believes makes her a good friend. Go around the circle, allowing each kid to share something about himself that makes him a good friend. End the game by asking the kids what about Jesus makes Him a good friend.

**SAY** • Jesus is the best friend we could ever have. Today, we will hear a story about a time when one of Jesus' friends got sick and the friend's sisters asked Jesus to come heal him. Jesus didn't go right away but waited until the friend died! Do you think that something like death can stop Jesus from being a good friend? No way! We'll learn more soon.

**OPTION 2:** Emotions charades

Invite volunteers to take turns acting out emotions. Challenge the other kids to try and guess what emotion the kid is pretending to feel. Make sure to end the game by acting out sadness.

**SAY** • Usually you can tell how a person is feeling by looking at facial expressions and actions. In our story today, we will learn about something that made Jesus cry. What do you think might cause Jesus to feel sad and cry?

**Transition to teach the story**

# TEACH the Story



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## Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire

· vase

· padding or cloth

*[Leader enters carrying a vase wrapped in multiple layers of padding or cloth.]*

**LEADER** • Hey, friends. Though this currently looks like a wad of laundry, it's actually a really valuable vase. I keep it all wrapped up because it's fragile, and I don't want it to break. Supposedly this vase was the last of its kind made by a famous glass-blower named Marvin Punty.

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

But now it's time to unwrap it so I can put it on display. I have a feeling it will sell fast. I just hope whoever buys it after me is careful to protect it like I have been. When someone does purchase it, I'll be sure to pack it carefully again so the new owner can get it home safely.

You know, all this talk of wrapping and unwrapping actually makes me think of a Bible story. However, the one wrapped up wasn't a vase, but a

friend of Jesus named Lazarus. He was all wrapped up because that's what people did with the bodies of people who had died back then. What happened to Lazarus was quite the miracle!

### **Big picture question (1 minute)**

**LEADER** • As we get into the story, I want you to think about our big picture question. ***How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.*** In the beginning, when God created the universe, death was not part of creation. Today we will learn about a small glimpse Jesus gave people into the way God's kingdom will function when He returns to fully set up His rule on the earth. Death will not happen. Pain and sickness will end, and all evil will be destroyed. God's plan for creation is perfect.

### **Giant timeline (1 minute)**

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. · Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • While on earth, Jesus traveled Israel teaching people about God and His kingdom. Jesus taught that **God's growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.** God's kingdom grows as lost people put their faith in Jesus. **Jesus came to seek and save the lost.** But not everyone believed Jesus. **Many people misunderstood Jesus' teachings.** However, Jesus' miracles proved that He is God and His teachings are trustworthy. Today we will learn about that. Our story is called "Jesus Raised Lazarus."

- Bibles
- “Jesus Raised Lazarus” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 11. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Raised Lazarus.”

**LEADER** • I wonder if Jesus’ disciples felt confused when they learned that Lazarus had died. Jesus said that Lazarus’ sickness *wouldn’t* end in death. Was Jesus wrong? Jesus is never wrong, and everything He says is perfect and true. Lazarus’ sickness didn’t end in death because **Jesus has power over death!**

What happened with Lazarus is just a small picture of what life in God’s eternal kingdom is like. Everyone who has faith in Jesus will live with God forever. God’s perfect design never included death. Sin brought death and destruction into the world, but God’s perfect plan would defeat death. Although we all will face physical death someday, we can be sure that Jesus’ death and resurrection made the way for us to be resurrected, too. When Jesus returns, He will resurrect us, and everyone who has faith in Him will live with God forever. We will live even if we die.

Jesus came to earth to die the death we deserve and rise again. By rising from the dead, Jesus defeated death and took away sin’s power. Everyone who believes the truth about Jesus and has faith in Him will gain life with God forever in His kingdom.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He showed that He has power over death. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. He gives

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Our life with God starts as soon as we trust in Jesus. We gain hope, joy, and peace. And beyond that, even after our physical bodies die we will be alive with God in heaven. When Jesus returns, He will raise us from the dead forever and fix everything sin has broken.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 25, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why death is sad. Guide them to discuss how believers have hope even in sadness.

“Unit 25, Session 4”  
Questions from Kids  
Video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Teach the kids the Spanish translations of “The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me” phrases.

- *Dios reina*—God rules.
- *Hemos pecado*—We sinned.
- *Dios proveyó*—God provided.
- *Jesús dio*—Jesus gives.
- *Respondemos*—We respond.

**LEADER** • Today we learned that **Jesus has power over death**. This is something that missionaries like the Sotos are teaching people. The Sotos often teach about Jesus in Spanish. Even though their church is in Utah in the United States, God is using them to share the good news of Jesus with Spanish-speaking people in Utah. Now you know some phrases that can help you share the gospel in Spanish too!

Close by sharing about missionaries your church supports and what languages the people they share the gospel with speak. Then pray for them and the Sotos.

Tip: To hear the pronunciation of Spanish words, seek help from a native speaker or use an online language tool.

· Key Passage Poster  
· “Kingdom of the Son  
(Colossians 1:13-14)”  
song

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Colossians 1:13-14. Then sing the key passage song.

**LEADER** • All people are born dead in sin. We cannot save ourselves from the kingdom of darkness. Thankfully, Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He can rescue us from sin, give us new life, and make us citizens of His eternal kingdom.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

· “Jesus, Our Savior”  
song

**LEADER** • **Jesus has power over death.** There are many reasons to praise Him. Let’s sing together. Sing together “Jesus, Our Savior.”

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • God, we praise You for being good, loving, kind, and powerful. Only You can undo death. Only You can turn sad things into beautiful pictures of peace and joy. Help us trust You always. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- marker
- sticky notes

Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a separate sticky note. Allow volunteers to say the key passage from memory. If no one can say the verses from memory, display the sticky notes one at a time until at least one kid can say the passage. Praise each kid's effort and encourage the group to continue working to memorize the passage.

**SAY** • Jesus came to earth to save people from sin and begin setting up God's kingdom on earth. Although His kingdom is not here completely, it has already begun. Everyone who has faith in Jesus is part of God's perfect kingdom. Someday, Jesus will return and fully set up His kingdom here. The world will be restored to perfection and all evil will be destroyed.

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find John 11. Select a strong reader to read John 11:25-26. Ask the kids which division of the New Testament John is in, and what that division tells us about. (*the Gospels; accounts of Jesus life, death, and resurrection*) Consider displaying the New Testament Israel Map to point out Bethany. (15)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb when Jesus arrived in Bethany? (*four days, John 11:17*)
2. Who did Martha say Jesus is? (*the Messiah, the Son of God; John 11:27*)
3. What happened when Jesus told Lazarus to come out? (*Lazarus obeyed, John 11:44*)
4. How can we know Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God? *Guide kids to think about what Jesus said about Himself, what others said about Jesus, and what Jesus' actions communicated. Remind the kids that only God has power over death. Jesus is God the Son, and we can trust what the Bible says about Him.*
5. What does it mean to live even if you die? *Direct kids to think about the new life we receive through Jesus. Help the kids think through both the abundant life we receive as soon as we become Christians and the resurrection and eternal life we are promised in the future. Eternal life starts right away.*
6. How do you feel when you think about death? *Help kids process the complexity of grief. Remind kids that sadness about death is normal and healthy. Explain that death was not part of God's original design for creation. Point out that Christians have hope even in sadness because we know that death is not the end for those in Christ. All believers who die are reunited with God and live in His perfect kingdom forever.*

**SAY • Jesus has power over death.** Our bodies still get sick and die because we live in a world broken by sin. Someday, Jesus will fix all that sin has broken. We have hope even in sadness because of Jesus.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

## Activity choice (10 minutes)



**OPTION 1:** Language is no barrier

Distribute Spanish storybook Bibles. Help the kids flip open to a page at random. Ask if they can determine the story by the pictures alone. Then provide paper, pencils, and markers or crayons. Encourage the kids to draw pictures that could help them tell the story of Jesus without using words.

**SAY** • The Sotos are from Puerto Rico. They speak both Spanish and English. The Sotos are the perfect couple to reach other Spanish-speakers with the gospel. If you don't speak the same language as someone else, communicating may feel impossible. Thankfully, God has given us lots of ways to communicate besides just language. Our facial expressions, body movements, and tone of voice can all communicate love, even if the person who sees or hears us can't understand our words. We can use pictures and art to communicate some basic messages, too!

Learning a new language is a great way to prepare yourself to spread the gospel, but it's not the only way. When we live on mission, God can use any and all of our efforts to bring Himself glory and spread the truth of the gospel.

**OPTION 2:** Wrap him up

Form two or more teams of kids. Provide each team with a roll of bathroom tissue. Explain that the teams must select a volunteer to wrap tightly with the bathroom tissue. When you say go, give the teams a few minutes to wrap their volunteer. Ensure no kids have tissue wrapped in a way that

- Spanish storybook Bibles
- paper
- pencils, markers, or crayons

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

## LOW PREP

- bathroom tissue, 1 roll per team

Tip: Three to five kids per team works well.

could be dangerous, such as around their necks or covering their nose and mouth. At the end, award titles to the teams, such as “Fastest Wrapping,” “Neatest Wrapping,” or “Most Tissue Used.” Allow the wrapped kids a chance to break free.

**SAY** • In Jesus’ day, when a person died, he would be wrapped tightly in cloth. Since the person was dead, no one had to worry about wrapping the person comfortably or making sure he could get out—a dead person wouldn’t need to get out!

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Lazarus came out all wrapped up and needed help getting unwrapped! It was a true miracle. **Jesus has power over death.** Everyone who has faith in Him will live forever with God. Even after we die, we have hope for the end of time. Jesus will return, raise believers from the dead, and fully set up His kingdom.

## Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week’s *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.