



THE
KING
OF
KINGS

**MIRACLES
OF JESUS**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
SESSION #6**

**JESUS RAISES
LAZARUS**

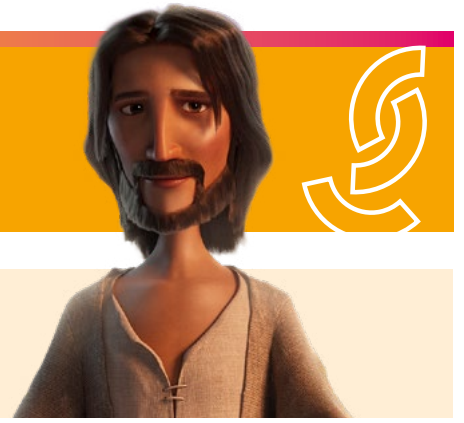
**JESUS' POWER
...OVER DEATH**



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SESSION #6

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

JOHN 11:38-44

ICEBREAKER

'LAZARUS, COME OUT!'

For this activity you'll need several rolls of toilet paper and a black bin bag for tidying up. Choose two children to be Lazarus and have the rest of the group work in teams to wrap them up from head to toe in 'grave clothes' using the toilet paper, leaving their faces clear for safety. Once wrapped, the Lazaruses should lie at one end of the room, ready in their tombs. When the leader calls out, 'Lazarus, come out!' the two wrapped children jump up and race to the leader—first to the finish line wins! You can play several rounds so more children get a turn as Lazarus. Be sure to clear up any stray toilet paper between turns to keep the area safe and slip-free.

The King of Kings is very faithful to Scripture, sometimes incorporating details from multiple gospels in its retelling of different events and miracles. Make sure the children know that just because some things in the clip might be slightly different than the passage, it doesn't necessarily mean they 'did it wrong'. Rather, each gospel gives us different details about the same events—just like fans seeing different angles of the same goal in a football match—and *The King of Kings* wanted to incorporate many of these details. If you have a mature group, you could read from multiple accounts, as listed in the key scriptures section above.

JOHN 11:32-44

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 'Where have you laid him?' he asked. 'Come and see, Lord,' they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 'Take away the stone,' he said. 'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.' Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.' →

READ



WATCH

Watch the clip of *The King of Kings* and see if you notice any differences from what we read. (Remember, some of these differences are because the gospel writers give different details.) If you have a very keen group, you can hand out papers for the children to make notes on what they notice in the clip.

You can use the following script, or read the Scripture again, inviting the children to imagine what they see, feel, smell and hear throughout. Read slowly, pausing after each question to allow the kids to imagine themselves in the scene. The imagining can be done in quiet, or you can take responses as you go.

If you have children for whom sitting still is challenging, consider handing out a fidget toy or having them draw the scene while you read the following lines:

“ Now I want you to imagine that you are there, just like the little boy Walter imagines himself watching Jesus do this miracle. Jesus can use our imagination to help us understand the story better. So let’s pray, Holy Spirit, please help us to really see what it was like to be there with you. Now everyone, close your eyes, fold your hands in your lap and take a deep breath...

You are walking with Jesus into the village of Bethany—a place full of Jesus’ friends where he had visited several times. What does the village look like, can you smell anything or hear anything? People come out to meet Jesus, but they don’t seem happy. They are crying and sobbing—how do they sound? What is it like as they come to speak to Jesus, what do they say to him? Jesus also starts to cry—how does Jesus look when he’s crying? Everyone around you is very sad, but how do you feel? What do you say to Jesus?

You walk through the village to the rocky place where people are buried—what is it like here? A crowd has gathered to see what Jesus will do—what are they saying to each other? A big stone covers a tomb in front of you, and Jesus tells some of the men to roll it away. There is a murmur from the crowd—inside the tomb will be a terrible smell. You almost think you can smell it now. They push the rock aside and the tomb is open, and Jesus prays so everyone can hear him—what does he say? Then he calls loudly, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ Everyone is completely quiet, waiting. Then a noise comes from inside the tomb—you can see someone coming out. What does he look like? Does he say anything? Is there a smell? No one can believe it, everyone is completely amazed. What does the crowd sound like now?

Jesus goes over to Lazarus, what does he do? What does he say? Jesus walks back over to you now—what do you say to Jesus? What does he say to you?

IMAGINE

DISCUSSION

What did everyone imagine? Have a time of open sharing where the children describe what they imagined. Be sure to highlight whether this time of imagining gave them any insights or new ideas about the Bible story. ➔



DISCUSSION CONT.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

If Jesus knows that he is going to raise Lazarus from the dead, why does he feel so sad and cry with Mary and Martha?

Mary, Martha and Lazarus have been friends with Jesus for a while and know him well, but Jesus has arrived too late to heal his friend Lazarus from his sickness (we read earlier that Jesus actually arrives late on purpose!). When he arrives, Mary and Martha still believe in him, but are hurt and confused. Sometimes we can also feel confused when God doesn't answer some of our prayers. But what happens next is even more amazing than what they'd asked for!

Before Jesus calls for Lazarus, he prays 'for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me'. Jesus wants to show everyone there that he has God's power over death. God may not always answer our prayers immediately, or in the way we expect, but we should still trust that he has the power and a good plan for us, because he cares so much about us.

This important miracle not only showed Jesus' power and helped his dear friends, but it also pointed towards what Jesus himself would do on the cross. When Jesus died on the cross, I wonder what Lazarus thought? Maybe he wasn't so surprised when Jesus came back to life again!

QUIZ

WHO SAID IT?

Who said these lines in the Bible passage and/or video?

Q: 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

A: *Mary*

Q: 'See how he loved him!'

A: *The crowd*

Q: 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

A: *Some of the crowd, Pharisees (movie)*

Q: 'But, Lord, by this time there is a bad odour.'

A: *Martha*

Q: 'Lazarus, come out!'

A: *Jesus*

Q: 'If he can't, no one will ever follow him again, problem solved.'

A: *Pharisee (movie)*

Q: 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'

A: *Jesus* →



CRAFT

LAZARUS COME OUT!

Bring the story of Lazarus to life with this fun and tactile craft! Children will enjoy wrapping their very own 'Lazarus rock' in bandages, adding googly eyes and feet as they imagine the moment Jesus called him out of the tomb. Optional extras could include making a tomb.

(You will find the process for making the craft on next page.)

PRAYER

Jesus, sometimes I feel confused when you don't answer my prayers. Help me to know that you really care for me and love me, just like you loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus. I know you have the best plans for me, so help me to keep trusting you even when I feel sad or hurt. Whatever your plan is, help me to wait for it with faith in my heart. Amen.



LAZARUS ROCK

We recommend making one Lazarus rock in advance to show the children what it will look like and to plan how much of each material you will need for the craft session.

MATERIALS

- ✓ 1 small smooth rock (to fit in a child's hand)
- ✓ white gauze, medical bandage, or strips of white fabric
- ✓ googly eyes (enough to provide two for each rock)
- ✓ glue or glue dots
- ✓ marker pens
- ✓ scissors (optional)
- ✓ paper or card to draw feet (optional)

METHOD

1. Wrap Lazarus up

Have the children take their rock and gently wrap it in bandage strips or white fabric like a mummy. Leave a little space near the top for the face.

2 Add eyes

Glue two googly eyes near the top where the face would be. Now Lazarus is starting to 'wake up!'

3. Give him hands and feet

On a piece of paper or card, draw two little feet. They can be silly or simple. Cut them out and glue or tape them to the bottom of the rock, sticking out from under the bandages.

4. Say the verse together

While the children hold their finished Lazarus rocks, count to three and have them say: 'Lazarus, come out!' (John 11:43)

5. (Optional) Make a tomb

Give the children small boxes or cups to create Lazarus' tomb. Have them place him inside and then take him out when you say the verse together!



UP NEXT...

SESSION #7: JESUS' RESURRECTION