

Lesson 7 - Jesus & the Dead Brother - Darlene

October 27, 2019

Worship: 10 minutes

DVD:

Points to consider as you think about how to teach this lesson:

- Jesus' relationship to Lazarus' family – Jesus obviously knew them well and had been to their home many times.
- Jesus' timing – not ours. The delay in Jesus' arrival concerned Mary and Martha, but Jesus had a plan to give them all they could wish and more than they could imagine.
- The time in Jesus' ministry when this happened: near the end, after being threatened by the ruling Jews.
- The disciples' loyalty to Jesus – going with Him even if it meant death.
- Compare the responses of Mary and Martha. Notice that Jesus also treated the two sisters very differently. Martha, he chided. Mary, he wept with.
- Explaining the shortest verse in the Bible. Why did Jesus weep?
- How amazing would it have been to see Jesus call a dead man out of the tomb!
- The end of the passage: Jesus seems to go back into hiding with His disciples.

STORY TEACHER:

John 11:1-54

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin,^[b] said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now

Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. ³⁴And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

The Plot to Kill Jesus

⁴⁵Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation

should perish.” ⁵¹He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

⁵⁴Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

Lessons that can be drawn from this story:

- God’s timing is not usually our timing. He does things that we don’t understand, but just like Mary and Martha came to understand, we will, too.
- Jesus (God) has power – control – over everything, even death.
- The same event may have opposite results: some believed, some wanted to get rid of Jesus.
- Jesus, who raised Lazarus from the dead would, in a very short time, die. He would die for a reason, too. He would die in the place of all those weeping and all those who would believe in him forever after. He died for you and me. We deserved to die, but He took our punishment and died in our place. But he didn’t need someone to raise HIM from the dead! After three days, He came out of the tomb, resurrected by the power of GOD!

Small Group Lesson

Small Group Teachers pick and choose activities:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Questions for older children

1. When Jesus heard Lazarus was sick, he delayed going to him for two days. Why didn't he go right away? *He said he was going there to wake him up – in other words, bring him back from the sleep of death.*
2. Think of a time you wanted God to answer a prayer right away and he didn't. What happened? How did you feel when he didn't answer? How did you feel when he finally did answer?
3. Why were the disciples reluctant to go back to Judea? *The Jews had threatened to stone Jesus (chapter 10).*
4. It sounds like Martha and Mary both scolded Jesus. What did they say when he came? *If Jesus had been there he would have kept Lazarus from dying.*
5. Why do you think Jesus wept? *He was sorry for their sorrow. He knew he was going to raise Lazarus.*
6. How was Lazarus' resurrection different from Jesus' resurrection? *Many answers: grave clothes, time, being called, etc.*
7. What were the two responses of the mourners? *Some became believers; some "told on him" to the Jewish leaders.*

Questions for younger children

1. Who was Lazarus? *Brother of Mary and Martha, all friends of Jesus.*
2. What happened to Lazarus? *He got sick and died.*
3. What did Jesus do when he heard Lazarus was sick? *Waited two days before he went to their house.*
4. What did Jesus want the people to learn by raising Lazarus from the dead? *He wanted them to see that He was their Messiah – that He was God.*

5. What did Jesus call out at Lazarus' grave? *Lazarus, come out!*

PRAYER:

Lord, Jesus, thinking about death makes us sad. We don't know what it will be like after this life. Help us trust you. Thank you for being in charge of our lives and the lives of people we love. Help us share the news that you are the resurrection and the life. In Jesus' name, amen.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 11:23 – Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. Do you believe this?”

Drama:

Do the activity first.

Then act out the graveside scene as someone reads verses 17 through 46.

Characters:

Jesus

Martha

Mary

Lazarus

Friends

Tattle tales

ACTIVITIES:

Toilet paper wrap game:

Divide into two or more groups. Give students five minutes to select a Lazarus and wrap him(her) in toilet paper. The most thoroughly wrapped student wins parts for his whole team in the drama. (If you choose NOT to do the drama, have a small sticker prize available for the winning team.)

Word Search and Maze available. See link.

ART:

Art paper and bright marking pens or pencils. (Or paint if you don't mind extra clean-up) As the children create, talk with them about what heaven must be like. Share what you know for sure from Scripture while students sketch and color their ideas.

Coloring Page available. See link.