



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 41: Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Scripture

John 11:1-45

Memory Verse

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

Isaiah 55:8 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Understand that God doesn't always do things the way we think they should be done.

Understand that God is to be glorified through all situations.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

All throughout the year we have been learning about what it means to be a disciple. So, what exactly is a disciple? A disciple is a pupil, or student, who chooses to learn from a specific teacher. Jesus is the Teacher the twelve disciples chose to learn from. They learned from Jesus by walking with Him and talking to Him. They saw Him heal the sick and give sight to the blind. They saw Jesus walk on water and multiply food.

We have been learning all of this so that we, too, will know how to disciple others who have chosen, not to follow you and me, but Jesus Christ.

We are going to look at a story you might have heard before. You see, there was a man who lived in the town of Bethany. His name was Lazarus. He had two sisters, Martha and Mary. Jesus often visited their home. Lazarus got very sick, though. “So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ they told Him, ‘the one you love is sick.’” (John 11:3 NIV) When they said, “the one you love,” they meant “the one you love like a brother.” They were close after spending time together.

When Jesus got the news, He talked about it not ending in death. Jesus talked about God's glory and how He would also receive glory because of what was about to happen. When we talk about God or Jesus receiving glory, it means to recognize and honor them for who they are - true and unchanging. Whatever was about to happen in Bethany would cause people to recognize and honor both God and Jesus!

The Bible tells us that, “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” (John 11:5 NIV) Remember that, because it is important! You and I would probably think that, because of Jesus' love for them He would have rushed to Bethany to heal Lazarus. He didn't. After Jesus received the message from Martha and Mary, He waited two more days before He went to them. You see, God's thoughts are nothing like our thoughts. The way He does things is far beyond anything we could imagine! (Isaiah 55:8)

And then, after two days, Jesus and His disciples headed back to the area of Judea. Jesus told them that they would find Lazarus “asleep.” “But I am going to wake him up,” Jesus said. (John 11:11b NIV) The disciples didn't understand that Jesus was talking about Lazarus' death, so He told them plainly.

“When Jesus arrived, He found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.” (John 11:17 NIV) Jesus also found many people from Jerusalem there at Martha and Mary's house. Jerusalem was only two miles from Bethany. Many had come to comfort the sisters.

Application

Our memory verse says, “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD. “And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.” (Isaiah 55:8 NLT)

Do you remember reading in our lesson that, “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus?” (John 11:5 NIV) The word “love” here is not the same one used when the sisters talk about Lazarus and the one Jesus loves. This isn’t the word for “brotherly love” it is the word for the unconditional way God loves us. He loves us when we are good. He loves us when we are bad. Nothing we will ever do can make God quit loving us.

So, if Jesus loved them so much, why did He wait to go to Lazarus, knowing he would die? That is where our memory verse comes in. It doesn’t make sense to us that God wouldn’t heal someone that we love. But God’s plans and God’s ways are far bigger than anything our human minds can understand. Will you choose to trust Him, even when you don’t understand what He is doing?

Martha met Jesus. She told Him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.” And she was right. Jesus has the power to heal the sick, but that is not all that Jesus had in mind. “Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’” (John 11:23 NIV) Martha was only seeing what her mind could understand, though. Martha knew that Lazarus would live forever, that he would be resurrected one day to walk in heaven. Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even if he dies.” (John 11:25 NIV) Martha only understood a small part of this.

Martha ran into the house and called Mary. When Mary came out, Jesus had the same conversation with her. Martha and Mary knew that Jesus could have healed Lazarus. They also understood about eternal life, but they couldn’t begin to imagine what Jesus was about to do!

They went to the cave where Lazarus had been buried. “Jesus sobbed.” (John 11:35 NIV) The people who were standing around could see how much Jesus loved Lazarus. Some of the people remembered Jesus’ miracles and asked each other, “He opened the eyes of a blind man. Couldn’t He have kept this man from dying?” (John 11:37 NIV)

It wasn’t so much about what Jesus could have done. They had seen that and now believed. They couldn’t see past that, though. It was about Jesus and God receiving glory because Jesus was about to do something far beyond anything they could imagine!

Jesus asked that the stone be rolled away from the tomb. Then Jesus prayed, thanking God for listening to Him. And “then Jesus called in a loud voice. He said, ‘Lazarus, come out!’” (John 11:43 NIV) And wouldn’t you know, Lazarus came out of the tomb still wrapped in strips of cloth.

“Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did. So they put their faith in Him.” (John 11:45 NIV)

Have you put your faith in the One who can heal blind eyes and raise the dead back to life?

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Gives Words of Warning and Hope



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring gauze.

There was a man who lived in the town of Bethany. His name was Lazarus. He had two sisters, Martha and Mary. Lazarus got very sick. “So the sisters sent a message to Jesus. ‘Lord,’ they told Him, ‘the one you love is sick.’” (John 11:3 Nlrv)

The Bible tells us that, “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” (John 11:5 Nlrv) Remember that, because it is important! You and I would probably think that, because of Jesus’ love for them He would have rushed to Bethany to heal Lazarus. He didn’t. After Jesus received the message from Martha and Mary, He waited two more days before He went to them. You see, God’s thoughts are nothing like our thoughts. The way He does things is far beyond anything we could imagine! (Isaiah 55:8)

“When Jesus arrived, He found out that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.” (John 11:14 Nlrv) Jesus saw many people who had come to be with Martha and Mary. He also saw Martha and Mary.

They went to the cave where Lazarus had been buried. Jesus cried. The people who were standing around could see how much Jesus loved Lazarus. Some of the people remembered Jesus’ miracles and asked each other, “He opened the eyes of a blind man. Couldn’t He have kept this man from dying?” (John 11:37 Nlrv)

It wasn’t so much about what Jesus could have done. They had seen that and now believed. They couldn’t see past that, though. It was about Jesus and God receiving glory because Jesus was about to do something far beyond anything they could imagine!

Jesus asked that the stone be rolled away from the tomb. Then Jesus prayed, thanking God for listening to Him. And “then Jesus called in a loud voice. He said, ‘Lazarus, come out!’” (John 11:43 Nlrv) And wouldn’t you know, Lazarus came out of the tomb still wrapped in strips of cloth!

(Ask for volunteers to be wrapped in gauze. Encourage the other students to act out the story while “Lazarus” stays very still.)



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on poster board. Cut out in large puzzle shapes. Encourage your students to put the memory verse puzzle together. Be sure to practice the memory verse as students are looking for pieces. You might want to think about printing a copy of the memory verse for each of your students, cutting it into puzzles pieces, and presenting it in a re-sealable bag or envelope.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring rock candy for a snack today. Talk about the tomb that Lazarus was buried in. Review the story.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Find Judea, Jerusalem and Bethany on a map of Israel.
- Listen to Babbie Mason's "Trust His Heart."
- Sing "Have Faith in God," "Great is Thy Faithfulness," or another song related to the lesson.
- Talk about difficult things that have happened in your students lives. Review the memory verse and talk about seeing things a little differently. Talk about the need to wait on God and not rush ahead. Discuss that God knows the outcome and He can be trusted.
- Dig Deeper: Read the memory verse in several different translations.

“MY THOUGHTS
are nothing like
your thoughts,”
says the LORD.

“And MY WAYS
are far beyond
anything
you could imagine.”
Isaiah 55:8

Trace the letters.

LAZARUS,

COME OUT!

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?

○



Word Search

K Y B D R W O S U L W G R F M
C H E E N G O D T M O O T M Y
E E L I B E L I A V E D H Y T
U W C H R F S T H A S H E W E
E F I S S I H T W H I A L A E
Y E S T H G U O H T R U O Y V
E V E H A L R I O Y H G R S E
V E S G E A I E E E I I D I I
A C O U L D I M A G I N E E L
G L T O P R R E U P S E Y V E
R T H H T E S T I M O N Y E B
O N O T H I N G L I K E L S M
D N O Y E B R A F N O E B H T
O G Y M B E L I B V E S T H W
M L O S E V E I L E B M S H F

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD.

“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”

Isaiah 55:8



Word Search

K Y B D R W O S U L W G R F M
C H E E N G O D T M O O T M Y
E E L I B E L I A V E D H Y T
U W C H R F S T H A S H E W E
E F I S S I H T W H I A L A E
Y E S T H G U O H T R U O Y V
E V E H A L R I O Y H G R S E
V E S G E A I E E E I I D I I
A C O U L D I M A G I N E E L
G L T O P R R E U P S E Y V E
R T H H T E S T I M O N Y E B
O N O T H I N G L I K E L S M
D N O Y E B R A F N O E B H T
O G Y M B E L I B V E S T H W
M L O S E V E I L E B M S H F

Can you find the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the LORD.
“And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.”
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Preschool Word Search

P R A E M A R T H A I N
E I M A R Y T O R Y S D
H A P E M J E S O N W S
B M P C O M E O U T U S
J A W O M H T A S Y L S
E J T E I R H R O E S S
S T R U L T I F L Y R E
S A M A R J E S U S T D
F B E T H A N Y V I T E
D S E R E G T E R R B N
L C A E L R E N E R S J
L A Z A R U S T H E R T

JESUS

LAZARUS

MARTHA

MARY

BETHANY

COME OUT



Preschool Word Search

P R A E M A R T H A I N
E I M A R Y T O R Y S D
H A P E M J E S O N W S
B M P C O M E O U T U S
J A W O M H T A S Y L S
E J T E I R H R O E S S
S T R U L T I F L Y R E
S A M A R J E S U S T D
F B E T H A N Y V I T E
D S E R E G T E R R B N
L C A E L R E N E R S J
L A Z A R U S T H E R T

JESUS

LAZARUS

MARTHA

MARY

BETHANY

COME OUT