

How To Deal With Sad Times

Lesson 35

John 11:1-45

Memory Verse

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies. John 11:25

Introduction

Welcome each person--make sure that positive words are spoken. Ask if they have ever been really sad about something or felt sad for someone else who was hurting. Share a new word with them today—empathy. Explain that today's story shows how Jesus showed empathy when His friend died.

Scripture

John 11:1-3

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

While Jesus was telling people about God, Mary and Martha, two of Jesus' friends, sent a note asking Jesus to come to their home because their brother, Lazarus, was very sick. But Jesus did not come immediately.

John 11:4-6

When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Discussion

Ask: What did Jesus do when He learned that Lazarus was sick?

Jesus loved His friends but instead of going to their house, He waited two more days. He knew that something wonderful would happen when He arrived.

John 11:7-15

Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

... So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

After two days, Jesus and His friends traveled to Mary and Martha's house. Jesus told his friends that Lazarus had died. They were very sad.

John 11:17-19

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days... and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

When they arrived, friends and family were comforting Mary and Martha. They had wrapped Lazarus' body in cloth and placed him in a grave four days earlier.

John 11:20-22

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

Ask: What did Martha do when she learned that Jesus was coming?

Finally someone shouted, "Jesus is coming." Martha ran to talk to Him. She said, "If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died. But even now, I know that God will give You anything You ask."

John 11:25-27

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Ask: What did Jesus say to Martha?

Jesus spoke words of comfort to her: "Your brother will live again. I am the life. Whoever believes in Me shall never die."

Ask: What did say Martha to Jesus?

Martha told Jesus that she believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

John 11:32

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."

Ask: What did Mary do when she learned that Jesus was coming?

Soon Mary came to talk with Jesus. As she talked about her brother, Mary began to cry. Many of her friends were crying also.

Discussion

John 11:33-35

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.

Ask: What did Jesus do when He saw Mary crying?

Jesus also cried. He cared so deeply for His friends and He understood the pain they were feeling.

John 11:36

Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Ask: What did the people say when they saw Jesus crying?

When the people saw Jesus crying, they said, "Look; see how much Jesus loved His friend."

Jesus showed empathy to Mary and Martha. Empathy means that someone cares for others when they are hurt and may even feel their pain. They have love for them and want to help them in their time of sadness. Jesus felt this way about His friends. In fact, the Bible tells us that others saw Jesus' empathy and knew that He really loved His friends.

John 11:38-39

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.

Ask: What did Jesus tell them to do when they were at the tomb?

Jesus went to the place where Lazarus was buried. "Roll away the stone," He commanded.

John 11:39

"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."

Ask: What was Martha's reaction?

Martha was surprised. She said, "But Lord, it will smell bad because he has been in there for four days!"

John 11:40

Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Ask: What did Jesus say to Martha?

Jesus reminded her that she would see a miracle if she believed.

John 11:41-43

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!"

Ask: What did the people do?

The people removed the stone.

Ask: What did Jesus do?

Jesus looked up and thanked God for hearing Him. Then He called out, "Lazarus, come out!"

John 11:44

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."

Ask: What did Lazarus do?

Suddenly Lazarus came out of the grave. He was alive! Jesus had raised him from the dead.

John 11:45

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

Ask: What was the reaction of the people?

The people were amazed. Many people believed in Jesus because of what they saw him do.

Ask: What should we do?

There was another time when Jesus loved people. It was when He was on a rough, wooden cross. He loved us so much that He died on the cross for all the bad things we have done. Did you know that someone loved you THAT much! If we believe in Him, we can go to Heaven and be with Jesus.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.

Application