

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. (John 11:5) 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. Decay had set in, and Mary and Martha were grieving. 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 sin and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Younger Kids BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

Session Title: Jesus Has Power Over Death

Bible Passage: John 11:1-44

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Small Group Opening

Welcome time	Page 124
Activity page (5 minutes).....	Page 124
Session starter (10 minutes).....	Page 124

Large Group Leader

Countdown	Page 126
Introduce the session (1 minute).....	Page 126
Timeline map (3 minutes).....	Page 126
Big picture question (1 minute)	Page 128
Sing (5 minutes).....	Page 128
Key passage (4 minutes)	Page 128
Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)	Page 128
Discussion starter video (3 minutes).....	Page 129
The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)	Page 130
Prayer (3 minutes).....	Page 130

Small Group Leader

Key passage activity (5 minutes)	Page 132
Bible story review (10 minutes).....	Page 132
Activity choice (10 minutes).....	Page 133
Journal and prayer (5 minutes)	Page 135

Additional suggestions for specific groups are available at gospelproject.com/kids/additional-resources.

For free online training on how to lead a group, visit ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus Has Power Over Death

John 11:1-44

Jesus and Lazarus were friends. Lazarus lived in the town of Bethany, which was in the region of Judea. Lazarus had two sisters, Mary and Martha, and they lived there too. **One day, Lazarus got sick. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus. “Lord, Your friend Lazarus is sick,” they said.**

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

The disciples didn’t think that was a very good idea. The Jews in that area did not like Jesus. They had even tried to kill Him! But Jesus said, “Lazarus is our friend. He has fallen asleep, but I’m going to go wake him up.”

The disciples thought Lazarus was just resting, so Jesus explained what He meant. “Lazarus has died,” Jesus said. “Let’s go to him now.”

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in a tomb for four days. Many people had come to comfort Mary and Martha since their brother had died. **When Martha heard Jesus was coming, she hurried to meet Him.** 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 to get Mary. 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.

When Mary saw Jesus, she fell at His feet and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!” Mary was crying, and 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.

Martha said, “Lord, it’s been four days since Lazarus died. There will be a smell.”

Jesus said, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

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 sin and rose from the dead. He gives eternal life to those who trust in Him.

Want to discover God’s Word? Get Adventure!

Invite kids to check out today’s devotional to discover more about Jesus being the way, the truth, and the life. Whoever believes in Jesus will one day live with Him forever! Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.



Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Jesus Has Power Over Death

Bible Passage: John 11:1-44

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Welcome time

Arriving Activity: Power games

Provide items like uncooked spaghetti noodles, toothpicks, and craft sticks. Invite the kids to break one of each of the items. This should be easy. Then, encourage them to see if they can break two items at the same time. They can continue adding more items to break until they cannot break them. Give them time to tell how many of each item they could break.

Say • It takes physical power to break these things. The more items you had, the harder it was to break them. Jesus' power is never limited. We'll find out another example of this in today's Bible story.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide boys and girls to complete the activity page.

Say • Today, we will learn how Jesus raised a man named Lazarus from the dead.

Session starter (10 minutes)

Option 1: Message game

On small individual pieces of paper, write one of the

following statements: *Jesus has power*; *Jesus takes care of my needs*; and *Jesus is Lord of all*. Make two sets. Form two groups of kids and invite them to line up single file.

Give the first kid in each line the same statement, folded up so kids cannot read it. Explain that it is a special message. When given a start signal, the kids must pass the special message down the line. The last kid opens it, reads it, and whispers it to the kid in front of him. The message will then be whispered from one kid to the next until it reaches the beginning of the line. The first kid must then say the message aloud. If the message is incorrect, the kids must repeat the entire process. The first team to say the message correctly wins.

Play again using another statement. This time make passing the message more difficult. For example, the kids must pass it over their heads, with only their left hands, using two fingers, and so forth.

Say • In today's Bible story, Jesus had a special message to share with a woman named Martha. The message is actually our key passage. Can anyone say the key passage?

Option 2: Roll it

Encourage the kids to form groups of three. Give each group a roll of bathroom tissue. Each team chooses one volunteer. The other two must wrap the volunteer from shoulders to toes with the bathroom tissue. The first group to do so is the winner. Then invite the groups to race to unwrap the volunteer.

Say • We will find out why someone in today's Bible story was all wrapped up with small strips of cloth.

Transition to large group

- uncooked spaghetti noodles
- toothpicks
- craft sticks

- "Unwrap Code" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils



- paper
- scissors
- pen

- bathroom tissue, 1 roll per group

Tip: To prevent injury, make sure kids do not cover the volunteer's eyes, nose, mouth, or throat as they wrap.

Large Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Has Power Over Death

Bible Passage: John 11:1-44

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (1 minute)

• first aid kit with bandage wrap

[Large Group Leader enters with a first aid kit. Make sure the kit has a bandage wrap.]

Leader • It's time for our last training session. I think each of you has a bright future ahead of you as a lifeguard. What do I have here? That's right. It's a first aid kit. Some very important items are in a first aid kit. Some items like bandages are for small injuries. Others are for larger injuries—like this bandage wrap. A bandage wrap is used when you sprain a muscle or fracture a bone.

This wrap reminds me of another Bible story. It's about a man who was wrapped in something like this bandage wrap, only it covered his entire body. Let's find out what happened to him.

Timeline map (3 minutes)

• Timeline Map

Leader • First, let's remember what other Bible stories we've talked about during the past few weeks. It all

started near a picture of a beach with a lifeguard stand. Who can find it?

Who can tell me about the picture with the storm? You're right! The disciples were in the middle of a storm while they were on the Sea of Galilee. They thought they were going to drown, but Jesus calmed the wind and waves. ***Who has power over creation? Jesus has power over creation because He is God the Son.***

Who wants to tell me about the next picture? Jesus was preaching to thousands of people. He cared for them and knew they needed a meal, but all they had was five loaves of bread and two fish. Did Jesus use that small amount of food to feed thousands? Yes! We can always trust that God will take care of our needs. ***Who will always take care of us? God can and will provide for our needs.***

Next is a picture of Jesus with a man named Bartimaeus. Who can tell me about Bartimaeus? Good job! Bartimaeus was a blind man who begged Jesus to let him see. Jesus has power over any sickness. ***How did Jesus show His power over sickness? Jesus opened the eyes of people who were blind.***

Here's a picture with a bunch of wild pigs. What did we learn about last time? You got it! We learned about a man who had an evil spirit. When Jesus saw the man, the evil spirit begged Jesus to leave him alone. Evil spirits are enemies of God, and the spirit knew Jesus had power to destroy it. ***Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.*** Jesus told the spirit to leave the man and go into a bunch of pigs instead.

Let's look at the next picture on our timeline. Today, we'll discover how Jesus healed a man named Lazarus—even after Lazarus died.

Big picture question (1 minute)

Leader • This seems like a great time to take our first look at the big picture question for today. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead?* As always, the answer is right in your Bible. I hope you have your Bible today.

Sing (5 minutes)

Leader • Jesus has a way of turning bad things into good things. It doesn't seem that any good comes from death, just sadness. However, our theme song tells us that God can turn all things to good. Let's sing it! Sing together "Something Beautiful."

• "Something Beautiful" song

Key passage (4 minutes)

Leader • Our key passage comes from today's story. It's a message from Jesus to Martha, Lazarus's sister. Let's see who knows the key passage without looking at it. See if the kids can say the key passage, John 11:25-26, without showing the slide or poster. Then show the verses, and lead the boys and girls to read them. Sing together "Everlasting Life."

• Key Passage Slide or Poster
• "Everlasting Life" song

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Leader • Our Bible story comes from John 11. Can you find it in your Bible? We will find out more about Lazarus and how Jesus healed him even after Lazarus died. That will help us answer the big picture question, *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead?*

Show the "Jesus Has Power Over Death" video, or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read only the bolded text.

Leader • Lazarus was no stranger to Jesus. Lazarus's family and Jesus were friends. When the disciples told

• "Jesus Has Power Over Death" video
• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Bible Story Picture Slide or Poster

Jesus that His friend was sick, they thought surely Jesus would go help him right away. A few days later, Jesus said Lazarus was sleeping and it was time to go see him. That didn't make sense to the disciples either. They thought if Lazarus was resting, he must be getting better. That's when Jesus told them that Lazarus was dead.

Mary and Martha knew Jesus could have healed their brother when he was sick, but Jesus wanted to show them that His power didn't end there. After Lazarus had been dead four days, Jesus told him to come out of the tomb! What happened? That's right! Lazarus came out—alive. Jesus showed Mary, Martha, and the disciples that He has power over death too. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*

Ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Jesus say Lazarus was sick? (*to give Jesus glory, John 11:4*)
2. What did Jesus tell Martha when He arrived? (*her brother would live again, John 11:23*)
3. When did Jesus cry? (*after seeing Mary and the others mourning where Lazarus was buried, John 11:33-35*)
4. How many days was Lazarus in the tomb before Jesus raised him from the dead? (*4, John 11:39*)
5. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*

Discussion starter video (3 minutes)

Leader • Have you ever been early to an important event? Have you ever been late? Watch this video. Show the "Unit 29 Session 5" video.

• "Unit 29 Session 5" discussion starter video

Leader • Can any of you share a time you were late to something? Mary and Martha thought Jesus was too late to heal Lazarus, even though Martha believed Jesus could still perform a miracle. Death is no match for Jesus.

The story of Lazarus is a reminder for us that Jesus faced death too. Jesus gave His life for our sin when He died on the cross. He didn't just die, though. Just like Lazarus, Jesus was placed in a tomb, but He didn't stay there. Jesus is alive! When we repent and put our faith in Him, we are saved from the punishment of death that we all deserve.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Prayer (3 minutes)

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Leader • Let's check out our answer to the big picture question. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*

Invite the kids to squat as low to the ground as possible. As they say the big picture question and answer they should slowly rise up and get louder with each word.

Before transitioning to small group, make any necessary announcements. Lead the kids in prayer. Pray that God will help the kids understand that death brings sadness, but death is not the end because Jesus has defeated it.

• Big Picture Question
Slide or Poster

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.

Small Group LEADER

Session Title: Jesus Has Power Over Death

Bible Passage: John 11:1-44

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.

Key Passage: John 11:25-26

Unit Christ Connection: Jesus demonstrated His power over the brokenness of the world caused by the fall.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Slide or Poster
- dry erase board and markers (optional)
- paper
- markers

Make sure the key passage, John 11:25-26, is visible for each child, either as the slide, printed poster, or written on a dry erase board. Read the verses together.

Say • Who was Jesus speaking to when He said our key passage? (*Martha*) Did Mary and Martha think it was too late for Jesus to save Lazarus? (*yes*) Was it? (*no*) Does Jesus still have power over life and death? (*yes*) These two verses are important to memorize. They are also important to share with our friends and family. Let's practice them now in a fun little game.

Form two or more groups, but each group must have an adult leader. Explain that each group must write the key passage, say the key passage together, and say the key passage individually. The other kids can help during the individual part. The adult leader in each group must judge that each part is completed. The first group to finish wins. Play again as time allows.

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Small Group Visual Pack
- Big Picture Question Slide or Poster

Bible story review (10 minutes)

Encourage the kids to find John 11 in their Bibles. Help them as needed.

Say • John is the last book in which division of the Bible? (*Gospels*) Who was John? (*Jesus' disciple*)

Use the small group visual pack to show kids where today's Bible story is on the timeline. Review the Bible story provided using the bolded text, or summarize the story in your own words. Then show the kids how to find Luke 7:11-17 and Matthew 9:18-26 to further show Jesus' power over death.

Say • Jesus demonstrated His power over death four times during His ministry on earth. In Luke 7, Jesus raised a widow's son from the dead; in Matthew 9, He raised a young girl; He raised Lazarus in John 11. Who else was raised from the dead? That's right! Jesus was raised from the dead, and He is alive!

It's OK to be sad when someone we love dies because we will miss that person. It doesn't mean that Jesus is no longer in control. Mary and Martha thought death was the end for Lazarus. It wasn't. For those who repent and trust in Jesus, death is not the end. When people who believe in Jesus die, they go to heaven to be with God. And one day, God promises to raise us from the dead. That's what Jesus was saying in the key passage.

Show the big picture question slide or poster.

Say • *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*



- large pieces of paper or dry erase board
- markers

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Waiting game

Choose a volunteer to draw something that you have to wait for. Kids must guess what she is drawing. Suggest things like waiting to see a doctor, for a cake to bake, for a flower

to bloom, for glue to dry, for popcorn to pop, and so forth.

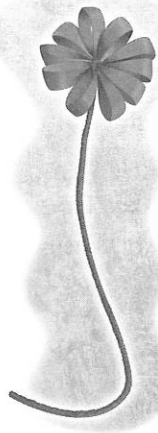
Say • Imagine being Martha and Mary in our Bible story. They must have thought that Jesus would come right away when He heard Lazarus was sick. Jesus didn't. It wasn't because He didn't care. It was because He had different plans. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*

Option 2: Flower arrangement

Invite each kid to make a paper flower. Provide each child with five strips of 1-inch wide paper. The length of the strips determines the size of the flower. A good size is 8½ inches long. Stack the paper strips and staple them in the middle. Then demonstrate how to gather the ends of each strip and touch them to the middle, forming a tear shape. Glue the ends to the middle. When finished you should have a flower shape. Wrap a green chenille stem in the middle to be the flower's stem.

Say • When people die, their loved ones often receive flowers as a gift. Jesus didn't bring flowers to Lazarus's funeral. Jesus had other plans. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*

- paper strips, 5 per kid
- stapler
- glue
- green chenille stems



- journals
- Journal Page, 1 per kid (enhanced CD)
- markers or crayons
- Bible Story Coloring Page

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and the journal page provided with this session. Instruct the kids to draw a picture of Lazarus coming out of the tomb. Writers can write the key passage from memory.

Say • Let's answer the big picture question one more time. *Why did Jesus raise people from the dead? Jesus raised people from the dead to show that He has power over death.*

Make sure each child puts this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Pray, thanking God for the proof He gives us of Jesus' power over death. Pray for each child by name, asking God to show each one His love and power.