



LESSON 8

REFERENCES: JOHN 11:1-44; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 524-536.

Lazarus, Come Out

Has someone you love been sick—so sick that they died? The Bible tells about two sisters who didn't want their brother to die. They wanted Jesus to help him.

Mary looked at her sister, Martha, with frightened eyes. “I wish Jesus were here,” she said softly. “He could heal our brother, Lazarus.”



Martha squeezed the cool water out of the cloth and laid it on Lazarus' forehead. “Let's send a message to Jesus,” the sisters agreed. “Let's ask Him to come.”

Martha's servant found Jesus and told Him that His friend Lazarus was terribly sick. But Jesus didn't hurry to Lazarus' house. He stayed in the town where He was teaching for two more days.

Mary and Martha sat beside their brother's bed. They did everything they could to make him feel better. But nothing seemed to help. Soon Lazarus died.

Memory Verse

“Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.”

JOHN 11:5, NIV.

The Message

Jesus does what is best for us.

Mary and Martha cried bitterly. “Where is Jesus?” Mary wailed. “If He had been here, He would have healed Lazarus!”

Jesus and His disciples set off for Lazarus’ house. When Jesus arrived, Martha cried, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died!”

Jesus spoke kindly. “Your brother will live again,” He said. “Where did you bury him?”

Mary and Martha led Jesus to the cave where Lazarus was buried. A big stone blocked the grave. Jesus said, “Roll the stone away.”

“Lord! Lazarus has been dead for four days!” Martha exclaimed, because she knew the body would smell. But she ordered the servants to roll the stone away.

Jesus looked up to heaven. “Father,” He prayed, “I know that You always hear Me. But I am saying these things out loud because I want all these people here to know that You sent Me.” Then Jesus shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

Everybody gasped. What was Jesus doing?

“Look!” someone shouted, pointing to the cave.

Lazarus stepped out of the cave, just as Jesus had commanded! Lazarus was alive again!

“Take the burial clothing off him,” Jesus said.

Mary and Martha ran to meet Lazarus. And they cried tears of joy.

The disciples now knew why Jesus had not rushed to heal Lazarus. He had had a very special plan to show people that He really, truly was the Son of God.

Jesus has a plan for our lives too. We can trust Him to do what is best for us.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together, and use the following motions to review the memory verse.

- Jesus** Point upward.
- loved** Hug self.
- Martha** Hold up a finger.
- and her sister** . . . Hold up another finger.
- and Lazarus** . . . Hold up another finger.
- John 11:5** Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Talk about or look at things you have your child do or eat that are best for them even though they don't like to (wear a bike helmet, eat vegetables, go to bed on time, etc.). Talk about how Jesus does what's best for us, even though it may not be what we want.

Thank Jesus for loving you and doing what's best for your family.



MONDAY

Help your child share with someone the heart made in Sabbath School. (Or make a paper heart, decorate it, and write the words "Jesus Loves You the Best Way.") Tell the story of Lazarus' healing as they share.

Ask Jesus to help you trust Him to know what's best for you.

TUESDAY

Take your child to a cemetery. Remind them that Jesus made Lazarus alive again. Talk about what it will be like when Jesus comes back and makes people alive again! (See 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.)



WEDNESDAY

Sing "With Jesus in the Family" together. Count the children in your family. Ask: "How many were in Lazarus' family?"

Tell your child about a time Jesus did what was best for you, even though you didn't see it at the time.

THURSDAY

Help your child say the memory verse, but put your family names in the verse ("Jesus loves [name], [name], [name], and [name].") Ask: "Are you glad you are part of God's big family?"

FRIDAY

Help your child act out the Bible story with your family. Make a cave under a big table. Use a damp cloth for the forehead of "Lazarus" and some other cloth to wrap "Lazarus." Who will be Lazarus? Who will be Jesus?

Read the story again from John 11:1-44.