



# Lazarus Raised

Scripture 1:23

## *Items Needed*

- ✓ Bible with Marked Scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Markers/Pencils
- ✓ One roll of toilet paper for each child
- ✓ Large Box with flaps that close  
Big enough for child to fit into,  
to serve as the "tomb".
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of take home overview.



## Lazarus Raised

### Objective of Lesson

This story in the Bible is a picture of God's saving grace. We are dead in sin but the Lord God has the power to raise dead sinners. God alone gets all the glory for the saving of His people.

### Scripture Reference

*John 11: 43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.*

### Lesson Instructions

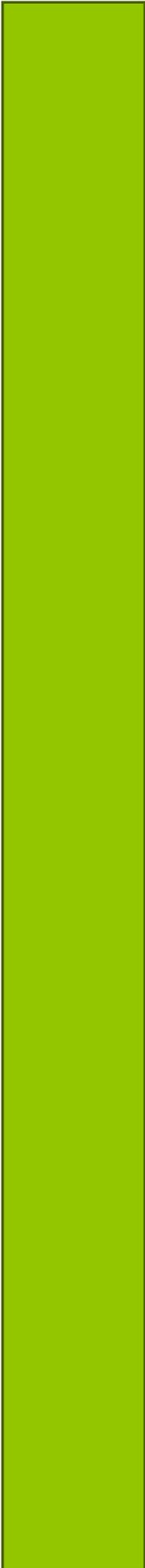
1. Today we are going to act out an event told in the Bible about a man by the name of Lazarus. I need a few volunteers. First I need someone to be Lazarus. He was a good friend of our Lord Jesus and he had fallen very sick. (Have "Lazarus" lay down like he is sick) He had two sisters, Mary and Martha. I need someone to be the two sisters. (Have the sisters act like they are tending to their sick brother) The sisters sent a message to the Lord and told him that His good friend Lazarus was sick. (Have them write a note and give it to you, the messenger, and you pretend to deliver it) When Jesus heard this, He said, "His sickness won't end in death. It will bring

glory to God and his Son." Our Lord did not go immediately to see Lazarus. He stayed where He was for two more days; then He said to His disciples, "Now we will go back to Judea." He told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I am going there to wake him up." They replied, "Lord, if he is asleep, he will get better." Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead! For your sakes I was not there for the intent that you would put your faith in me. Let's go to him."

2. At this point have the children wrap Lazarus in "grave clothes" (wrap him in toilet paper) and put him in the tomb (a box large or closet, something to represent the tomb) and block the entrance. When Jesus got to Bethany, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. (Have them count one, two, three, four)
3. Once our Lord Jesus arrived in the city, Lazarus's sister Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Yet even now I know that God will do anything you ask." Jesus told her, "Your brother will live again! I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me, though they are dead, they will live. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord!" she replied, "I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God. You are the one we hoped would come into the world."
4. After Martha said this, she went and privately said to her sister Mary, "The Lord Jesus is here, and He wants to see you." As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went out to Jesus. As she saw Him, she knelt at His feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."
5. When Jesus saw that Mary and the people with her were crying, He was terribly upset and asked, "Where have you put his body?" They replied, "Lord, come and you will see." Our Lord Jesus cried, and the people said, "See how much He loved Lazarus." Some of them said, "He gives sight to the blind. Why couldn't He have kept Lazarus from dying?" The Lord Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone rolled against the entrance. He

told the people to roll the stone away. (Have the children open the tomb) Martha said, "Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead four days, and there will be a bad smell from his dead body." Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you had faith, you would see the glory of God?"

6. After the stone had been rolled aside, Jesus looked up toward heaven and prayed, "Father, I thank you for answering my prayer. I know that you always answer my prayers. I said this aloud so that the people here would believe that you sent me." When Jesus had finished praying, He shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" The man who had been dead came out. His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth, and a cloth covered his face.
7. Jesus then told the people, "Untie him and let him go." Did you know this is exactly how the Lord saves all His people? We are dead. Our spirits are dead. Do you believe the Lord God can raise a dead man? Let's all pretend we are dead. Everybody lie down on the floor. If you are dead, can you move? No. What if I yell really, really loud, could a dead person hear me? No. Do we have the power to raise the dead? No. Did you know it is the same with our spirit? Our spirit is dead - anything pertaining to the spirit cannot understand or know anything spiritual. God is a spirit and we can't hear God. We can't see God. Who can bring our spirit out of death into life? Our Lord Jesus can! All things that have to do with the spirit we can't know unless our Lord Jesus brings our spirit out of death and into life.
8. He, just like with Lazarus, comes to us because we don't have the ability to come to Him. Why? The reason is because dead men can't do anything right. We just proved that. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, comes to every single one of His people and brings them out of their tomb of sin and death and declares to God and His justice, "Live!" and then, "Untie them and let them go". We are free from death, which is the punishment for sin. Christ took that punishment of death for us; He died for our sins and rose again so that we might be free!



## Lesson Activities

- Coloring Sheet

# Take Home Lesson Overview



## Lazarus Raised

### Scripture Reference:

John 11: 43And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

### Lesson Overview:

We are just like Lazarus - dead in sin with no hope of bringing ourselves back to life. Our Lord Jesus comes to us because we don't have the ability to come to Him. Why? Because dead men can't do anything. Just like in our story of Lazarus, Christ Jesus, the Son of God, comes to every single one of His people and brings them out of their tomb of sin and death and declares to God and His justice, "Live!" and then, "Untie them and let them go". We are free from death, which is the punishment for sin. Christ took that punishment of death for us; He died for our sins and rose again so that we might be free!



Lazarus Raised

## **Lazarus Raised: A Picture Of God's Saving Grace**

### **John 11:43-44**

There are many pictures of grace in the Bible, by which God illustrates the gospel message of salvation by grace alone. One of the most instructive of these pictures is the resurrection of Lazarus. Read John 11 and 12, and note these five things about Lazarus:

**HIS CONDITION (11:4)** - Lazarus was dead. That is the state of all human beings by nature, spiritually dead, dead in trespasses and sins, incapable of either knowing or changing their condition (Rom. 5:12).

**HIS CALLING (11:43)** - When the Lord Jesus cried, "Lazarus, come forth," the dead man arose to life. There is a general call which goes out to all men when the gospel is preached. But this was not a general call! It was a personal, particular, powerful call, irresistible, effectual and distinguishing. The only way any sinner will ever be saved is if the Son of God, by the power of his Spirit, calls him from death to life. And all who are called by him do live (John 5:25).

**HIS CONVERSION (11:44)** - Once he was called, Lazarus was converted. His conversion was both immediate and gradual. He was immediately changed from death to life. But he was gradually freed from his "grave clothes". And sinners saved by grace are immediately transformed into a new creation (II Cor. 5:17). But throughout our lives we are being saved, gradually, from the "grave clothes" of sin, unbelief, and self-righteousness (II Cor. 7:1).

**HIS COMMUNION (12:1-2)** - Soon after his resurrection Lazarus is found sitting at the table with his Savior. You will notice that the house and the table belonged to Lazarus, but the Master of the house was Christ. Lazarus surrendered all to his Lord! (Read Lk. 14:25-33). The believing, surrendered heart is the heart with which Christ holds sweet communion.

**HIS CONFLICT (12:9-11)** - Because of Lazarus many others believed. But the Jews sought to kill him. Why? Because he had been raised from the dead! This is the last we hear of Lazarus. His life with Christ was a life of unceasing conflict in this world. And all who believe will find it so with them (John 16:33).

Don Fortner