



Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

John 11:1-45

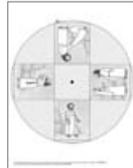
Young children are more interested in the present than they are in the abstract future. As you touch on the subject of death in this lesson, kids may be familiar with the topic through the death of their pets or family members. Use this lesson to assure them that because of Jesus, death is never final for those who believe in him.



► Bible Point
Jesus gives us hope.

Key Verse
“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ” (John 11:25).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will learn that they can have new life through Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Back to Life <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game where the word <i>resurrection</i> lets them back in after being eliminated.	lightweight object, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Bible Exploration	Lazarus Lives! <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Interact with the Bible passage about Lazarus by using “Lazarus Dial” scenes they make.	Bibles, My Bible Fun, scissors, crayons, paper fasteners Teacher Pack: 1 copy per child of the “Lazarus Dial” 	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	New Life for Me <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Make butterflies to signify new life in Jesus, use them in a music game, and sing the Key Verse song.	construction paper, pencils, crayons, scissors, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack CD	
	New Life in Jesus <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Bring a paper tree "back to life."	Bibles, markers, construction paper, tissue paper, scissors, fabric scraps, tape, large piece of paper	Draw a large tree trunk and empty branches on a large piece of paper. Post the paper on the wall at kids' eye level.
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		



Back to Life Supplies

lightweight object
CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "I Am the
Resurrection and the
Life" (John 11:25)
(track 7)

1 GETTING STARTED

Back to Life

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Then have kids sit in a circle on the floor.

Say: **Let's start today with a fun game! Who knows how to play Hot Potato? Pause as kids respond. Well, this game is a lot like Hot Potato, but there's one difference. You'll see what I mean in a minute.**

Choose a lightweight object, such as a small toy or book, to be used as the "potato." Cue "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) (track 7 on the CD).

Give the small object to a child in the circle, and explain that when you start the song on the CD, the children should quickly pass the object around the circle. Tell kids that when you pause the CD, whoever is holding the object is out of the game and must scoot back from the circle while the game continues.

Say: **That's how you play regular Hot Potato. But our game is going to be a little different. In our game, every time you hear the word *resurrection* in the song, you can scoot back into the circle and play the game with everyone else.**

Make sure that everyone understands the instructions and that they are to listen for the word *resurrection*. Then play the game for the duration of the song, pausing the CD every few seconds so that the game is fun and fast-paced. After the song, stop the CD.

Say: **In our game, you were hoping to hear the word *resurrection* so that you could come back into the game. I used that word on purpose because Jesus' resurrection gives us all hope.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like knowing that although you were "out," there was hope of getting back in the game?**
- **Tell about a time something seemed hopeless, but worked out well.**
- **What are some things in which you find hope?**

Say: **At Jesus' resurrection, Jesus came back to life. He'd been crucified and put in a tomb, but he came back to life! And when we believe in Jesus, we can have hope of living with him in heaven forever, even though our bodies may die! Today we'll learn about how ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE. In today's Bible passage, we'll meet a**



man whose body died—but because of Jesus, that wasn't the end of things! Let's find out what happened.

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Lazarus Lives!



Tip Kids will need to carefully cut out the rectangle on the student book page during this activity. If you have mostly younger children, you may want to cut out the rectangles beforehand.

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to John 11:1-45, and show kids the passage. If kids have their own Bibles, help them find the passage.

Say: **Today's Bible passage is about a man named Lazarus. The Bible says that Lazarus was sick. Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus, took care of him when he was sick. Let's pretend for a minute that we're sick.**

Have kids form pairs, and let kids take turns pretending to care for their "sick" partners. After a minute, gather kids back together.

Say: **Even though Mary and Martha took good care of their brother, Lazarus, he kept getting sicker and sicker. So they sent someone to tell Jesus that his good friend Lazarus was very sick.**

The Bible tells us that Jesus loved Lazarus and Martha and Mary. But Jesus didn't hurry to Lazarus' house to heal him. Instead, Jesus said that what was happening would show how great God is. So Jesus waited two days to go see Lazarus.

Have kids sit in silence for a moment to experience the waiting for Jesus.

While Mary and Martha were waiting for Jesus to arrive, Lazarus got so sick that he died. But that wasn't the end! We're going to use our My Bible Fun pages to help us tell what happened next.

Give each child a My Bible Fun page, and point out the "Lazarus Lives!" activity. Set out scissors and crayons for kids to share. Show children how to cut out the blank rectangle near the center of the page. Then give each child one copy of the "Lazarus Dial." Have kids cut out the circle. Help them each attach their circles to the backs of their My Bible Fun pages so that the pictures show through the cutout rectangles. Attach each circle with a paper fastener placed where indicated on the front of the student page.



Lazarus Lives! Supplies

- Bibles
- My Bible Fun
- scissors
- crayons
- paper fasteners

Teacher Pack

- 1 copy per child of the "Lazarus Dial"

Lazarus Lives! Easy Prep

- Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.





Have kids turn the “Lazarus Dial” circle so that the picture of Jesus and Martha (standing) is showing through the square. Kids can color the picture as you tell about the passage.

Say: When Jesus was getting near the town where Mary and Martha lived, Martha ran out to meet him. Martha said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

And then Jesus said something amazing to Martha. In fact, what Jesus said is our Key Verse, and it’s recorded in John 11:25: “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’ ” Then he asked Martha if she believed him, and Martha said yes.

Martha said, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

Have kids turn the “Lazarus Dial” circle so that the picture of Jesus and a kneeling Mary is showing through the rectangle. Ask kids to color the picture as you tell more about the passage.

Say: Martha hurried back to her house and told her sister that Jesus had come. When Mary heard that Jesus was near, she ran out to meet him. She fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw Mary and the other Jews who had come along with her were crying, he was deeply troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Have kids turn the “Lazarus Dial” circle so that the picture of Jesus is showing through the rectangle. Ask kids to color the picture as you tell more about the passage.

Say: Jesus cried as they led him to the tomb where Lazarus had been laid. When they got to the tomb, Jesus told them to move the stone away from the door of the





tomb. “But, Lord,” Martha said, “by this time the tomb might smell bad because he has been dead for four days.”

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

So they took away the stone, and Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed. Then he said in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

Turn your “Lazarus Dial” to the last picture to see what happened.

Pause as kids turn the circles. Ask kids to color the picture of Lazarus as you finish telling the passage.

Say: **Lazarus came out with his hands and feet wrapped in strips of linen and a cloth around his face. Jesus said, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”**

Show kids how to remove the paper fastener so that later on, they can take the Lazarus Dial off their student pages and do the family activities.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did Lazarus, Mary, and Martha experience hope in today’s Bible passage?
- In what ways do you have hope in Jesus?
- What can we do to experience more hope in our lives through Jesus?

Say: **Jesus brought Lazarus back to life after he died. And Jesus promises that if we believe in him, we’ll have life, even when we die. That means that because we believe in Jesus, we can live with him forever in heaven, even though our bodies may die. That’s important news! For people who know Jesus, ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**

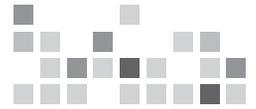
Now let’s see what this good news means for our lives today!

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

New Life for Me

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s make something to help us remember that if we answer Jesus’ question, “Do you believe this?” as Martha did, we can have new life, too! Martha said she**



New Life for Me Supplies

- construction paper
- pencils
- crayons
- scissors
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

Teacher Pack

CD: “I Am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25) (track 7)





believed that Jesus is the Son of God. If we believe that, too, we can have new life forever with Jesus!

When a butterfly comes out of its cocoon, we could say that it has new life because then it's beautiful and free. That's sort of how it'll be when we get new life in heaven because we believe in Jesus. We'll be happy and free forever. Let's make butterflies to remind us that ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.

Give each child a sheet of colored construction paper and a pencil, and set out the scissors. Show kids each how to trace their two hands on the paper in such a way that the fingers are pointing away from one another, with their thumbs aligned. They can color the handprints to look like butterfly wings, write their names on the butterflies, and then cut them out. Encourage children to write on their butterflies the name of someone they will tell about new life in Jesus this week.

Then gather kids in two facing lines with their butterflies. Play "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) once for the kids. Explain that kids will be playing a version of the game London Bridge, where two kids will hold their arms up together while everyone else walks through. When the song stops, the kids will drop their arms and "catch" the child walking through. That will be a "cocoon." Pause the CD at intervals to catch kids in the cocoon. When the song says, "He who believes in me will live," the child in the cocoon will hold up the butterfly he or she made and "fly" out of the cocoon to the end of the line.

Say: Use this butterfly to remember that just as a butterfly has new life when it emerges from its cocoon, so will we have new life when we go to heaven. You can make your own butterfly come to life by rolling up your paper with the blank side out. Pause for kids to do this. Now unroll it to let your butterfly come out of the cocoon! Pause.

Let's sing the song we've been listening to, which is our Key Verse song, to understand more about the hope we have in Jesus.

Hand out copies of the lyrics, and play "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) (track 7 on the CD). Have kids sing along and do the motions.



(clap to the beat)

I am the resurrection and the life! *(raise hands high, then pat chest to the beat)*

He who believes in me will live, *(point to head, then jump and spread arms and legs wide)*

Even though he dies. *(crouch low)*

(Repeat.)

There's no! other way to the Father. *(punch fist in the air on "no," then raise hands high)*

No! other way to the Son. *(punch fist, then raise hands high)*

No! other way to Jesus. *(punch fist, then motion "Jesus" by pointing right middle finger to left palm, then left middle finger to right palm)*





We must believe, we must believe, *(point to head two times)*
We must believe in him alone! *(point to head, then jump high)*

I am the resurrection and the life! *(raise hands high, then pat chest to the beat)*
He who believes in me will live, *(point to head, then jump and spread arms and legs wide)*
Even though he dies. *(crouch low)*
(Repeat.)

I am the resurrection and the life! *(raise hands high, then pat chest to the beat)*
I am the resurrection and the life!

“I Am the Resurrection and the Life” (John 11:25) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How are butterflies symbols of hope?**
- **How are we like or unlike butterflies when we will experience new life after death?**
- **What do you hope will happen when you live forever with Jesus?**

Say: **In a way, when Lazarus stepped out of the tomb to new life, he was sort of like a butterfly coming out of its cocoon. However, there’s a lot more meaning to this passage. Eventually, Lazarus had to die again, even though the Bible doesn’t tell us about that. But death no doubt was still defeated by Jesus’ power, allowing us all to live forever with Jesus. It is in that power that ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**

New Life in Jesus

What You’ll Do

Gather everyone near the tree picture you created.

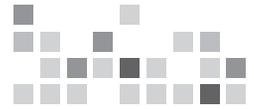
Ask:

- **Hmm, what seems to be missing from this tree?**
- **What would make this tree look more alive?**

Say: **This tree looks dead, doesn’t it? It doesn’t have any nice leaves on its branches. Maybe that’s what it needs to look alive. Let’s add some!**

Let children cut or tear paper leaves from construction paper, tissue paper, and fabric and add them to the branches of the tree. Instruct children to write “Jesus is alive!” on each leaf before attaching it to the tree.

After each child has attached several leaves to the tree, have kids stand back to admire their handiwork.



New Life in Jesus Supplies

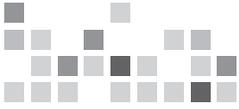
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- Bibles
 - markers
 - construction paper
 - tissue paper
 - scissors
 - fabric scraps
 - tape
 - large piece of paper

New Life in Jesus Easy Prep

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Draw a large tree trunk and empty branches on a large piece of paper. Post the paper on the wall at kids’ eye level.





Ask:

- How does our tree look now?
- How is that different from how the tree looked before?

Say: **This tree looked dead before, but now it looks as if it came back to life! When something is dead and then it comes back to life, we say it has been resurrected.**

Ask:

- When you think of the word *resurrection*, who do you think of? Why?

Say: **What Jesus did for Lazarus can happen for all of us! Jesus can bring back to life the part of us that makes us who we are so that we can live forever with him.**

► **JESUS GIVES US HOPE.** Listen to how our Key Verse says it.

Open your Bible to John 11:25, and show kids the verse. Help kids find the verse in their own Bibles. Then read the verse aloud, as kids repeat after you: **“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies’ ” (John 11:25).**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How does our tree represent the hope that Jesus offers?
- What are other things that can remind you of new life in Jesus?
- How can we be sure of the hope of new life that Jesus offers?

Say: **Every year, many trees lose their leaves and look dead. But every spring, the leaves grow back and the trees come back to life! When we believe in Jesus, we can live with him forever in heaven, even though our bodies may die. Mary, Martha and Lazarus experienced firsthand the power of Jesus to bring the dead back to life. As followers of Jesus, we too can expect to experience new life through Jesus. And that’s why ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**

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4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how we can remember that ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE this week.**

Daily Challenges
Supplies

My Bible Fun





Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges on their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Read John 11:25 with a parent, and talk about hope. What does your parent hope for?**
- **Give your butterfly to the person whose name you wrote on it, and tell that person what it means to have new life in Jesus.**
- **Look for symbols that remind you of hope this week, like trees and butterflies. When you see them, ask God to fill you up with his hope.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.** Allow time.

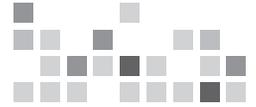
Say: **Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life from death showed that death does not have the final word when we believe that ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE. Let’s follow through on our Daily Challenges this week to demonstrate our hope in Jesus.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about hope in Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking Jesus for giving us hope when we believe in him.



**Lyrics** ■■■■**I Am the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25)

**I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.**
(Repeat.)

**There's no! other way to the Father.
No! other way to the Son.
No! other way to Jesus.
We must believe, we must believe,
We must believe in him alone!**

**I am the resurrection and the life!
He who believes in me will live,
Even though he dies.**
(Repeat.)

**I am the resurrection and the life!
I am the resurrection and the life!**

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