



Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

John 11:1-45

Third- and fourth-graders know about the importance of friends. They're interested in their peers and crave acceptance. Kids can relate to the friendship of Jesus and Mary, Martha, and Lazarus in today's lesson. They're also old enough to know the difference between hope and despair. Use this lesson to highlight the friendships and also the great hope we have in the Jesus who miraculously brought Lazarus back to life.



► **Bible Point**
Jesus gives us hope.

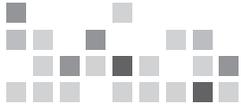
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p>A Sure Thing <i>(about 10 min.)</i></p> <p>Play a guessing game in which they try to find a "sure thing" to discover that hope in Jesus is always a sure thing.</p>	<p>3 opaque cups, 3 small identical objects</p>	<p>Place 3 small identical objects under 3 opaque cups. Set these aside, and don't let children see under the cups until directed in the activity.</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p>	<p>Hope in Jesus <i>(about 15 min.)</i></p> <p>Learn about the people in the Bible passage and discuss what each hoped for.</p>	<p>Bibles, scissors, pens, paper, drawing supplies Teacher Pack: "Biography" poster</p> 	<p>Cut apart the "Biography" poster on the sections where indicated.</p>

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 share their hope in Jesus with others in their lives.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	What I Hope For <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think about their hopes and what it means for them to have hope in Jesus.	Bible Truth Sleuth	Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
	Jesus' Promises for Me <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Look up Scriptures to find Jesus' promises to put hope in.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, pens	
	Resurrection and Life <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song to understand that believing in Jesus is what gives us the hope of eternal life.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Commit to reflecting on the hope they find in Jesus.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		



A Sure Thing Supplies

3 opaque cups
3 small identical objects

A Sure Thing Easy Prep

Place 3 small identical objects under 3 opaque cups. Set these aside, and don't let children see under the cups until directed in the activity.

1 GETTING STARTED

A Sure Thing

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

During this activity, you'll play a shell game with the kids. The game will be rigged so that no matter which cup kids look under, they'll always find an object. Bring out the cups with objects that you prepared beforehand.

Say: Today we're going to play a guessing game you may recognize. I'm going to switch these cups around, and you'll have to guess which one has the object under it.

Show kids one of the objects under a cup, and then switch the cups around, mixing them up. Then have a willing child guess which cup has an object under it. Play several times, allowing each child at least one guess.

Show kids that there was an object under each of the cups.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like when you chose the cup with the object under it every time?
- What's the difference between hoping for an outcome that you're not sure will happen and hoping for a sure thing?
- Do you think hoping in Jesus is a sure thing? Why or why not?

Say: In our game today, there was no way you could've guessed wrong. It was a sure thing that you would choose a cup with something under it. Hoping in Jesus can be like that. You can always hope in Jesus because he'll always do what he says he'll do.

In today's Bible passage, we're going to learn about some friends of Jesus who had every reason not to have hope. But we'll see what they learned about why hoping in Jesus is a sure thing. We'll learn that ► **JESUS GIVES US HOPE, too.**



2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Hope in Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form three groups. Each group will examine one of the people in today's passage—Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—to discover how each of them showed hope in Jesus.

Have kids open their Bibles to John 11:1-45. Give each group pens, paper, and the section of the "Biography" poster with the biography of its person.

Say: **In your groups, look at the facts listed for your person. These facts come from John 11:1-45. Then you'll make a presentation by acting out the scene, writing a poem about it, drawing a picture, or making up a song. In your presentation, you'll need to answer the following questions:**

Ask:

- What was this person's situation?
- What questions did he or she have?
- What hope did the person have in Jesus?
- What did Jesus say to, or do for, this person?

Have kids study the facts for their person. Then have groups make their presentations to everyone. Encourage kids to be creative in presenting their answers. They can act out a scene, make up a poem or a song, or create a drawing that shows their person and responds to the questions. After kids have finished with their presentations, gather their attention.

Say: **Jesus gave Mary, Martha, and Lazarus hope. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE, too. If we keep getting to know Jesus and make our relationship with him grow, we'll live forever. Our Key Verse today tells us that, too. It's something Jesus said to Martha to bring her hope.**

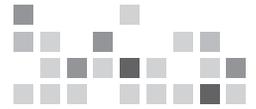
Have kids turn to John 11:25 in their Bibles and read the verse aloud together: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.'"

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What hope did Mary, Martha, and Lazarus have in common?
- What difference did their hope in Jesus make for them?
- What hope does our Key Verse offer you?



Hope in Jesus Supplies

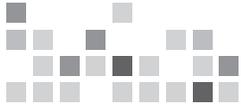
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- Bibles
 - scissors
 - pens
 - paper
 - drawing supplies
 - Teacher Pack**
 - "Biography" poster

Hope in Jesus Easy Prep

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Cut apart the "Biography" poster on the sections where indicated.





What I Hope For Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

What I Hope For Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 6 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Say: **Our Bible passage shows the power of hope in Jesus, even when everything seems to be going wrong and it looks like death has the final answer. But Mary, Martha, and Lazarus learned that even death is not the final power. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE, too—for life today and for eternal life.**

Let's take a look at some things in the world we could put our hope in and why we can put our hope in Jesus instead.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

What I Hope For

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids turn to the "What I Hope For" activity in their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

Have kids form two concentric circles, one facing the other.

Say: **Tell the person standing across from you the benefits of the first image [money] on your Bible Truth Sleuth page and what can happen when you have hope in it.**

Give kids a moment to share, and then have them rotate one place to their own right so that the inner and outer circles move in opposite directions. Have kids share with their new partners what can happen when they hope in the second image on the Bible Truth Sleuth page. Continue rotating until kids have talked about all the images on their pages.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are the risks of putting hope in the first five things you see on your Bible Truth Sleuth page?**
- **What risks do we take when we put our hope in Jesus instead of other things?**
- **What are some of the things we can hope for because of Jesus?**

Say: **It's not wrong to have money, popularity, intelligence, fame, or power. But placing our hope in them almost always leads to disappointment because all of those things are temporary. Since Jesus has power over even death, ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE. Let's look at what else we receive when we put our hope in Jesus.**



Jesus' Promises for Me

What You'll Do

Have kids form pairs and find the "Jesus' Promises for Me" activity in their Bible Truth Sleuth pages.

This activity shows an image of Jesus made up of various Scripture references that each tells something Jesus promises to do for us or to provide for us. The kids will look up any two of the references and create a similar drawing, in the space provided, with the answers that the Scripture references lead them to. For example, kids may find from the Scripture references that Christ provides hope or that he is an anchor and a rock. They would then think of a shape that represents the word they chose and write the word to make that shape—the words will form the outline of the shape.

Say: **On your Bible Truth Sleuth page, you'll see an image of Jesus. If you look carefully, you'll see that various Scriptures make up that picture. Look up two of the passages and talk with your partner about the promises you find in them. Then each of you will create an image that represents the promise in that passage. For example, if the passage promises Jesus will give you love, you could write "love" so that it makes the shape of a heart.**

You may want to assign different passages to each pair and then have pairs share with the whole group the promises they've found. This way, kids will have the opportunity to learn the promises in each of the passages.

If some kids have a hard time creating images from the passages or words in the passages, just have them write the promises they find.

Give kids time to look up passages and help them find them if needed. Then have kids create their drawings in the space provided next to the image of Jesus on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages. After a few minutes, gather everyone's attention and ask pairs to share the promise they found in their passage and the image they drew that represents that promise.

Say: **Think of one person you know who needs to know about the hope you have in Jesus. This person could be a friend from school, someone in your family, or anyone else you can think of. Write that person's name on your Bible Truth Sleuth page.**

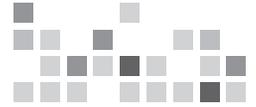
Give kids time to write down names of people to talk to.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Which of these promises are most important to you?
- Why do these promises give you hope?
- Give some examples of times you knew you could have hope because of your relationship with Jesus.



Jesus' Promises for Me Supplies

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- Bibles
 - Bible Truth Sleuth
 - pens





Resurrection and Life Supplies

Bibles
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 2)

Say: **As you can see and hear, there are lots of promises for us in the Scriptures. The Bible itself is a living book of hope that points toward Jesus as the center of our hope. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha saw Jesus give them hope in his power over everything, even death. Let's find out more about the life that Jesus offers if we believe in him.**

Resurrection and Life

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

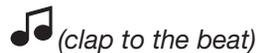
Have kids turn to John 11:25 in their Bibles.

Say: **Our Key Verse for today says: "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).**

Ask kids to repeat the Key Verse aloud together as a group a few times.

Say: **People put their hope in many things in the world: money, good jobs, and other people are just a few of those things. But we can put our hope in Jesus and have the promise of eternal life. Now that's something to hope for! Let's sing a song of celebration. The words for this song come from our Key Verse.**

Pass out copies of the lyrics, and play "I Am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25) (track 2 on the CD). After they listen once, have kids sing along and do the motions.



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.



If you have time, repeat the song and the motions.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- How is the promise in our Key Verse the ultimate message of hope?
- What are the benefits of hope even if we never see a miracle such as Lazarus coming back to life?
- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus has power over death?

Say: **If we believe in Jesus, we can have eternal life, just as our Key Verse says. That’s an amazing thing to hope for! Yet it’s also true that Jesus, who really *is* the resurrection and the life like we sang about, offers us a hope-filled life not just in eternity, but today and now. Lazarus, Mary, Martha, and all the people who witnessed the events in today’s Bible passage saw that hope come to life. They experienced firsthand how ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**

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**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS**

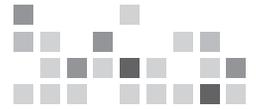
Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Instead of choosing a Daily Challenge this week, use your Bible Truth Sleuth page to reflect on the hope you can find in Jesus. Read more of the Bible passages in the “Jesus’ Promises for Me” section of your Bible Truth Sleuth page. Then keep watch for ways that God gives you hope this week based on those promises. This will be everyone’s Daily Challenge for the week.**

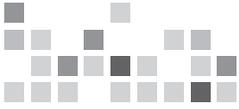
Be sure to commit to this Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids about your commitment. Kids will be more inclined to follow through when they see you doing the same.



**Daily Challenges
Supplies**

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Bible Truth Sleuth





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 of 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 Challenge this week to show our hope in Jesus.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the commitment they made to watch for ways God gives them hope and what they learned about hope in Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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 God for giving us hope in Jesus and asking for help in sharing that hope with others.



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!**

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

