



Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

John 11:1-45

Preschoolers don't yet understand the finality of death. These young children are still in the process of sorting out what's real and what's make-believe. Their understanding of death may very well include a variety of fantasies. However, Lazarus' death and resurrection provides a good opportunity to help children further their understanding of God's miraculous power. Remind them that this situation was special because Jesus was there to raise Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was really dead and Jesus really brought him back from the dead—it's not pretend. Use this lesson to help children understand Jesus' power and compassion!



► 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

Children will trust Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Living Forever With Jesus Make steam with their breath on hand mirrors.	Bible, large hand mirror	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Learn what Theo is hoping for.	CD player, Theo puppet, sunglasses, tape Teacher Pack: CD	Tape a pair of sunglasses to Theo's paw.
	Bible Time: Alive! Use their My Bible Hugs pages to tell what happened to Lazarus.	Bible, My Bible Hugs, craft knife, markers, tissues, 2 craft sticks per child Teacher Pack: "Mary, Martha, and Lazarus" teaching picture 	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Use a craft knife and follow the instructions on the My Bible Hugs pages and the "Mary, Martha, and Lazarus" teaching picture.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Wrap 'Em Up! Are wrapped the way Lazarus might have been wrapped.</p>	roll of toilet paper	
	<p>Center 2: Empty Tomb Create “empty tomb” snacks.</p>	CD player, two doughnut holes per child, small bowls with melted butter, small bowls with cinnamon and sugar, plates, bear-shaped cookies, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Center 3: What Do You Hope For? Learn details about a prize and tell what prize they hope for.</p>	paper bag with 1 individually wrapped candy per child	
	<p>Center 4: Hope Shows Through See how a smiley face appears through foil.</p>	one 5-inch piece of chenille wire per child, one 5-inch card stock circle per child, aluminum foil, tape, paper	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Sing a song about the hope Jesus gives.</p>	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "His Great Love"
(Romans 5:8)
(track 3), "Live in
Heaven" (track 24)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle.

Lead children in singing "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) (track 3 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **God loves us.** (*cross arms over chest*)

God sent his Son to die for us (*raise both arms high and lower them slowly*)

Because of his great love. (*cross arms over chest and sway*)
(Repeat.)

His great love, (*point up*)

God showed his great big love (*move hands side to side*)

By sending Christ to die for us (*lower arms and march in place*)

While we were still sinners.
(Repeat.)

(Repeat from the beginning.)

His great love. His great love. (*point up*)

His great love. (*point up*)

"His Great Love" (Romans 5:8) by Ben Glover. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **It's wonderful to know how much God loves us! It gives me hope. Because God loves us, we can ask him for anything. Let's ask God to give us life in heaven.**

Sing "Life in Heaven" (track 24 on the CD) to the tune of "Oh, Dear! What Can the Matter Be?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Dear God, give us life in heaven!** (*fold hands and bow heads*)

Dear God, give us life in heaven! (*fold hands and bow heads*)





Dear God, give us life in heaven! *(fold hands and bow heads)*
In Jesus' name, amen! *(throw your hands up in the air)*
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's so neat to know how much God loves us. Since God sent Jesus to die for us, ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE today and forever.**

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Living Forever With Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Open your Bible to John 11:25, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.' " That means that people who believe in Jesus will live forever. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead the children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **People who believe in Jesus will live forever (John 11:25).**

Show kids the hand mirror. Demonstrate how to breathe on it to make steam. Then pass around the mirror and have kids take turns practicing. Say: **It's cool to see our breath in the mirrors. We breathe all day long—even while we're sleeping! And that's one way we know we're alive.**

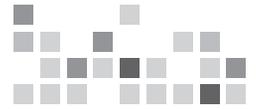
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What other things show that you're alive?
- What do you like about being alive?
- What do you like about being able to live forever?

Say: **God made each of us and he keeps us alive. Our verse reminds us that if we believe in God's Son, Jesus, we'll live forever in heaven. Because ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE, we can look forward to all the good things God wants to give us.**



Living Forever With Jesus Supplies

- Bible
- large hand mirror





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
sunglasses
tape

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Tape a pair of
sunglasses to Theo's
paw.

3

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

Theo: These are my sunglasses.

Teacher: But, Theo, it's not very bright in here. Why did you bring your sunglasses?

Theo: I brought them because I hope the sun will be shining when I go outside.

Teacher: I hope the sun will be shining, too! Kids, do you know what it means to have hope?

(Allow children to answer.)

Teacher: When we hope for something to happen, it means we have a good feeling that what we want to happen will actually happen.

Theo: I have a good feeling that it'll be bright and shiny when I go outside. I hope it is!

Teacher: Children, can we help Theo put on his sunglasses? We can have hope that the sun will shine, and we also can have hope for living forever when we believe in Jesus.

Friends, that's our Bible Point for today. Let's say it together for Theo: ► **JESUS GIVES US HOPE.** *(Have kids repeat the Bible Point with you.)* Theo, go on out and enjoy the sunshine!

Theo: Thanks for sharing such great news with me! Well, I'm heading outside now.

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Theo hoped for sun—tell about something you hope for.

Say: **Like Theo, we can hope for things like a bright sunny day to play outside. We can hope for all kinds of things! When we believe in Jesus, we know that ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE for wonderful things in heaven.**



Bible Time: Alive!

What You'll Do

Give each child two craft sticks and a marker. Demonstrate how to draw a happy face on one side of a craft stick and a sad face on the other side of the same stick. Do the same with a second stick and have kids follow your lead. Have kids draw a cross on one of the craft sticks to distinguish Jesus from Lazarus.

Open your Bible to John 11, and show the children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **The Bible tells us that Jesus showed love and hope to one man and his family. When you hope for something, it means you want that thing to happen. In the Bible, we'll hear how Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, hoped Jesus would help them.**

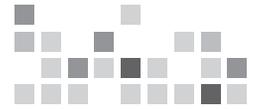
Say: **Jesus was good friends with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. But one day Lazarus got very sick. Mary and Martha were very worried about him.** Have the children show the sad face on the Lazarus craft stick.

Show the "Mary, Martha, and Lazarus" teaching picture and give each child his or her My Bible Hugs page. Point out Mary and Martha. Say: **Mary and Martha tried to take care of Lazarus and make him feel better.** Open the "bed" on the teaching picture and lay the Lazarus craft stick on it with the sad face up. Have kids do the same with their Lazarus craft sticks on their My Bible Hugs pages. Show them how to cover Lazarus with a tissue "blanket."

Say: **Even though Mary and Martha tried to make Lazarus better, it didn't work. Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus and asked him to come and make Lazarus well. They hoped Jesus would help Lazarus. They knew that Jesus could. But Jesus didn't come right away, and Lazarus died. Mary and Martha were very sad. They wrapped Lazarus in cloth and put him in a tomb. A tomb is a kind of cave where they put dead people.**

Take Lazarus off the bed, and use the tissue to wrap him. Turn the teaching picture around. Open the "tomb" and place your wrapped craft-stick Lazarus, sad face up, inside. Close the tomb. Then direct the children to do the same with their craft stick and My Bible Hugs page.

Say: **When Jesus got to their house, Lazarus had already been dead for several days.** Make your craft-stick Jesus walk, and encourage the children to do the same. **Jesus was sad, too.** Point to Jesus' sad face, and have kids show the sad face on their Jesus craft sticks. **Jesus went to the tomb and asked the people there to open the tomb. The people didn't want to open the tomb. They didn't know that they could hope that Jesus would do something amazing. But they did what Jesus told them to do.** Open the tomb door.



Bible Time: Alive! Supplies

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- Bible
- craft knife
- My Bible Hugs
- markers
- tissues
- 2 craft sticks per child

Teacher Pack

"Mary, Martha, and Lazarus" teaching picture

Bible Time: Alive! Easy Prep

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Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Use a craft knife and follow the instructions on the My Bible Hugs pages and on the "Mary, Martha, and Lazarus" teaching picture.





Say: **When they opened the tomb, Jesus prayed to God and then said, “Lazarus, come out!” Say that with me.** Lead children in saying, “Lazarus, come out!” **And guess what happened? Lazarus got up and walked out of the tomb! He was alive again! Jesus told the people to remove the cloth and let Lazarus go.** Remove Lazarus from the tomb and unwrap him, and have kids do the same.

Say: **Lazarus was happy to be alive.** Turn Lazarus around, show his happy face, and have children do the same. **Mary and Martha were happy that their brother was alive.** Draw happy faces on Mary and Martha, and give children markers to draw happy faces on their My Bible Hugs pages.

Say: **Jesus was happy that his special friend Lazarus was alive.** Turn Jesus around, show his happy face, and encourage children to do the same. **Mary and Martha hoped that Jesus could help their brother, and Jesus made their brother come back to life.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was your favorite part about this Bible passage?**
- **Tell about a time you hoped that God would help you with something.**

Say: **Lazarus was so sick that he died, but Jesus made him better—he brought Lazarus back to life. Mary and Martha hoped Jesus could help them and he did! He did a really amazing thing. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE that he can do amazing things for us, too.**

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4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today’s Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you’re ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they’d like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center’s description.

■ CENTER 1:

Wrap ‘Em Up!

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Put kids in groups of three. Say: **Lazarus died and they put him in a tomb. But Jesus brought him back to life!** Have one group of three stand back-to-back with their arms at their sides. Wrap the group of three with the toilet paper, about three or four times around.

Center 1: Wrap
‘Em Up!
Supplies

roll of toilet paper



As you do, say: **Lazarus’ family wrapped him in white cloth when he died and put him in a tomb. When Jesus brought him back to life, he broke free from the white cloth.** Look to the group of three you wrapped. **Break free like Lazarus!** Repeat the process for each group of three, while the other kids join in by saying “Break free, Lazarus!”

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to be wrapped up like Lazarus?
- What was it like to break free?
- What can Jesus do for you?

Say: **Lazarus came back to life and broke free from the cloth they’d wrapped him in when he was dead. Like that, it was great breaking out of the toilet paper you were wrapped in! Jesus gave hope to Lazarus, Mary, Martha, and all the people who saw Lazarus come back to life. And ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE, too.**

■ CENTER 2:

Empty Tomb

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands, then sit down for the snack. Bring out the doughnut holes. Make sure the melted butter is cool. Say: **A tomb is a place where people bury dead people. In Jesus’ time, tombs were often caves cut out of rocks.** Pass out the doughnut holes on plates. Show kids how to roll their doughnut holes in the butter and then in the cinnamon sugar mixture. Let kids push their thumbs into the center of the doughnut holes to create empty tombs.

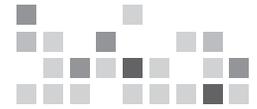
While kids are creating, play “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 7 on the CD). When the “tombs” are finished, point out that they’re empty because Jesus brought Lazarus back to life and he came out of the tomb. Have a child pray before children enjoy the snacks. Then give children bear-shaped cookies, and let them act out the Bible passage for one another.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Seeing the empty tomb must’ve been amazing—tell about an amazing thing that’s happened to you.
- What’s something amazing that Jesus has done for you?



Center 2: Empty Tomb Supplies

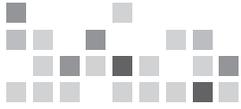
- CD player
- two doughnut holes per child
- small bowls with melted butter
- small bowls with cinnamon and sugar
- plates
- bear-shaped cookies
- antibacterial gel (optional)

Teacher Pack

CD: “Jesus Loves Me Rock” (track 7)

! ALLERGY ALERT





Center 3: What Do You Hope For? Supplies

paper bag with 1
individually wrapped
candy per child

Center 4: Hope Shows Through Supplies

one 5-inch piece of
chenille wire per child
one 5-inch card stock
circle per child
aluminum foil
tape
paper

Say: **Jesus gave Mary and Martha hope; they knew he could make Lazarus okay again. And Jesus can do amazing things in our lives, too. I'm glad that ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**

■ CENTER 3:

What Do You Hope For?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Show kids the paper bag and don't tell children that there's candy inside.

Say: **I have a special prize for you in this bag. It's something most kids love. What do you hope it is?** Let one or two kids answer—encourage kids to say, "I hope for _____." Then continue. **Great try! I'll give you another clue.** Tell the color of the candy. **What do you hope it is?** Let one or two other kids answer. Then continue the process, giving kids more clues and letting one or two children answer after each clue. Let each child have a chance to tell what he or she hopes the prize is. Then show kids the candy and let each child have a piece.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to wait and hope for what you wanted?
- What do you hope Jesus will give you or your family?

Say: **Mary and Martha hoped Jesus could help Lazarus. And he did! He brought Lazarus back to life. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE, too. We know we can ask him for things and he'll listen to us. He won't always give us everything we want—like candy—but he will give us everything we need.**

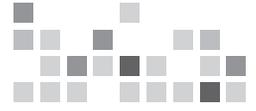
■ CENTER 4:

Hope Shows Through

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child one of the card stock circles. Give kids each two small pieces of paper and have them wad them up and tape them onto their circles to look like eyes. Say: **Lazarus' eyes were closed when he died, but Jesus opened his eyes when he brought him back to life. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**





Then give each child a chenille wire. Have kids shape the chenille wire into a smile and tape it to the circle. Say: **Everyone smiled when Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. Jesus gave the people great hope, and ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE.**

Give each child a 6x6-inch piece of aluminum foil. Have kids center the circle under the square of foil and fold the foil edges around the back of the circle. Then have them gently press the foil against the front side of the smiley face until the eyes and smiles appear. Say: **Lazarus was dead in the tomb and the people couldn't see his smiling face until Jesus brought him back to life—then his face appeared when he came out of the tomb. Jesus gave Lazarus and his sisters hope—they were sad when Lazarus died, but they had hope and were happy when Jesus brought him back to life.** Point to the eyes and mouth on the smiley face as you say the following, having children follow the actions in parentheses.

Jesus knows when I'm sad.
He knows when my eyes cry. (*point to eyes*)
He turns my frown into a smile (*point to smile*)
And wipes my tears away. (*wipe eyes*)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

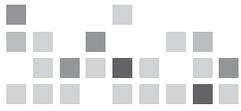
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you hoped something would happen and it did.
- What are other things that put a smile on your face?

Say: **Jesus made Lazarus and his sisters smile when he brought Lazarus back to life. He gave them hope because he was there for them and he took care of them. Jesus takes care of us, too. ► JESUS GIVES US HOPE. Even when things happen that make us sad, we can have hope because Jesus is going to make it all better.**





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

Action Prayer Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Hope, Hope"
(track 5)

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■■■

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS GIVES US HOPE. I would like each of you to choose a way that you can trust Jesus to give you hope this week.**

Read the three Daily Challenge ideas for children to choose from:

- **If you see someone who's sad, give that person a hug and tell the person that Jesus gives us hope.**
- **When you wake up in the morning or after a nap, remember how Jesus woke Lazarus from the dead and gave Lazarus hope to live again. Thank Jesus for giving you hope, too.**
- **Help your mom or dad make breakfast. Pray for the meal and ask Jesus to give your family hope all day long.**

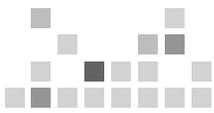
Have kids each whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children sit in a circle. Remind them that Jesus gives us hope. Play "Hope, Hope" (track 5 on the CD), and have children sing along to the tune of "Love, Love, Love, Love."





Hope, hope, hope, hope— (*put arms out with palms up and bounce them up for each “hope”*)

Jesus gives us all such hope. (*point to self*)

We will thank him. (*show prayer hands*)

We will thank him (*show prayer hands*)

For the hope. (*put arms out with palms up and bounce them up for “hope”*)
(Repeat 2x.)

For the hope. (*put arms out with palms up and bounce them up for “hope”*)

Say: **Let’s thank Jesus for the hope he gives us.** Have kids bow their heads. **Dear Jesus, thank you that you give us hope. In your name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

