

LESSON 5—JESUS RAISES THE DEAD

Bible Stories: Jesus Raises the Widow's Son / Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter

Bible Reference: Luke 7:11-17; Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:41-42, 49-56

Key Verse: John 11:25—Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies."

OVERVIEW

- Bible Story
- Key Verse
- Prayer Part
- Small Group Activities
- Review

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Signs that say: *"Sad Mother" "Dead Man" "Jesus" "Sick Girl" "Dead Girl" "Mourner" Mourner" "Mourner" "Mother" "Jesus" "Jairus" "Peter" James" "John" "Someone" "Mockers" "Mockers" "Mockers" "Lazarus"*
- 1 Roll of toilet paper
- Signs for: The Lord's Prayer
- A place where students can turn in prayer requests

OLDER-Each small group will need items for the "Jesus Saves!" headband craft including fabric markers.

YOUNGER-Each small group will need items for the "My Favorite Jesus Story Pillow Case" craft including fabric markers.

BIBLE LESSON

(Based on Luke 7:11-17 / Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25; Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:41-42, 49-56)

SAY: Good morning. We are so glad that you're here today. Today we're finishing our series called "Way Beyond Myself" which is all about the idea that God has the power to do things that are "Way Beyond" what you and I could ever do on our own.

CONTROL TOOL

Anytime I say, "That's impossible!" I want you to say, "Not for God!"

Practice a few times. If you want have a boys verses girls competition to see who can be louder.

REPEAT after me: *All things are possible for God.*

Review

ASK: **Who remembers some of the stories we've talked about?** *(Jesus healing the paralyzed man; Jesus sending Peter to pull a coin from a fish's mouth; Jesus and Peter walking on water; and the great catch of fish.)*

REPEAT after me:

"Jesus can heal."

"Jesus can forgive sins."

"Jesus can do the impossible."

Bible Stories

ASK: **Of all Jesus' miracles, what do you think the most amazing ones are?** (See if anyone mentions raising the dead.)

ASK: **How many people can you name that Jesus raised from the dead?**

SAY: Today's lesson pulls from three different Bible stories about Jesus bringing people back to life.

Jesus Raises the Widow's Son

Everybody SAY: Story #1

Choose a girl volunteer—give her the "Sad Mother" sign

Choose two boy volunteers—give one the "Dead Man" sign and the other the "Jesus" sign.

Read Luke 7:11-17 from your Bible.

As you read the story, help your characters act it out.

-Ask the "Mother" volunteer to look sad. Ask the students how they thought she felt. She had already lost her husband and now her only son. She was all alone and in that culture, a woman who was all alone had no one to support her.

-Ask your "Jesus" volunteer to repeat what the Bible says He said.

-Ask the "Dead Man" to lie on the ground but to sit up and start speaking after Jesus tells him to get up.

Have fun helping your students see this Bible story come to life...

SAY: Let's give our volunteers a hand for helping us but now I need several more volunteers.

Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter

Everybody SAY: Story #2

*Choose girl volunteers— pass out the signs that say: "Sick Girl" "Mourner" Mourner"
"Mourner" "Mother"*

*Choose boy volunteers—pass out the signs that say: "Jesus" "Jairus" "Peter" James" "John"
"Someone"*

Read Luke 8:41-42, 49-56 from your Bible.

Again as you read the story, help your characters act it out.

- Have Jairus fall at Jesus' feet and ask for help.
- Ask your "Someone" volunteer to come up and inform them that the girl had died.
- Switch the "Sick Girl" sign to a "Dead Girl" sign. Ask how Jairus, her father, must have felt when he heard this. Listen to what Jesus said to him.
- Ask your "Jesus" volunteer to repeat what the Bible says He said.
- Show how the "Mourners" became "Mockers." Change their signs and explain how they knew the girl was dead, laughed and Jesus and just couldn't believe otherwise.
- Ask the "Dead Girl" to lie on the ground. Have your volunteers for "Jesus" "Peter" James" "John" "Jairus" and "Mother" to surround her. Ask her to get up after Jesus tells her to get up.
- Ask the students how they think Jairus felt; how the "Mourners" felt; how the disciples might have felt.

SAY: These incredible miracles amazed everyone. Jesus had power over death.

SAY: When I point to this side, I want the all the boys to say, "**Jesus is ...**"
Then I'll point to the other side, and I want all the girls to say, "**Greater than death.**"

Go back and forth between the two sides three times to see who can be louder.

SAY: Jesus is even greater than death.

CONTROL TOOL

Leader: "*That's impossible!*" Students: "*Not for God!*"

KEY: In this series we've talked some about the things we worry about or fear—But think about it...what is the worst thing that can happen to a follower of Jesus? If a person is saved and dies, they'll go to heaven. If a person is saved and something terribly bad happens to them like getting a horrible disease or getting in an accident, Jesus can heal and fix anything. And if He doesn't, we know that He is with us and will give us everything we need to be the people He created us to be even in the middle of tough situations. When you think about how great and awesome God is and all that He can do, you see that there really isn't anything in this world that we need to worry about or to live in fear of.

REPEAT after me:

"Jesus can heal." / "Jesus can forgive sins." / "Jesus can do the impossible."

KEY VERSE

SAY: From now on anytime I say “*What do you know?*” I want you to say, “*Jesus Saves!*”

Leader: “*What do you know?*” Students: ““*Jesus Saves!*”

SAY: Our key verse today comes from another story where Jesus raised someone from the dead.

Choose 1 volunteer—Give him the “Lazarus” sign

SAY: Jesus had a friend named Lazarus who died. Jesus arrived four days after he died and what He told Lazarus’ sisters is our main verse for today.

Everybody REPEAT this after Me:

Jesus said to her, / “I am the resurrection and the life. / He who believes in me / will still live, / even if he dies. / John 11:25

Repeat it a second time.

SAY: After saying this to one of his sisters, Jesus asked to go to the tomb. They took Him to the tomb but a stone was covering the entrance. Jesus asked them to remove it and they told him, “It has been four days and by now he stinks” (*No offense to the “Lazarus” volunteer!*). But even so, they removed the stone and Jesus called with a loud voice, “Lazarus come forth.” And guess what happened...Lazarus came out!

SAY: Now I want you to picture Lazarus. He’s been dead for four days and as a part of his burial, they would have wrapped him in cloths. So to make this look a little more real we’re going to wrap our “Lazarus” volunteer in toilet paper.

(Either you can wrap him or you can choose some of the leaders or students to help wrap him. Use as much toilet paper as you desire. Have fun with this.)

SAY: Imagine how it must have been when Jesus called Lazarus...(*Have the “Jesus” volunteer call out “Lazarus, come out!”*) and he actually got up in his grave clothes and came out of the tomb.

SAY: Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. (*Have the “Lazarus” volunteer break out of his “grave clothes.” Then he can return to his seat.*)

ASK: Can anybody think of a greater miracle than this?

SAY: Actually there is a greater miracle—Jesus gave Lazarus back a physical life that wouldn’t last forever but when Jesus saves us, He gives us an eternal life that does last forever. Jesus rescued Lazarus from a physical death and Jesus has made a way to rescue us from a spiritual death.

SAY: Listen to the verse again:

Everybody REPEAT this after Me:

Jesus said to her, / “I am the resurrection and the life. / He who believes in me / will still live, / even if he dies. / John 11:25

SAY: Jesus is greater than death and has made a way for us to have life after death. He did this by dying on the cross for our sins, to make a way for us to be forgiven and to be with Him forever in Heaven after this life.

ASK: Who has life after death? Who gets to go to Heaven? (Listen to the verse—Those who “believe” in Him, but this “belief” is not just believing with your head that Jesus is real; a person is saved by giving his life to Jesus and accepting Him as his Lord and Savior.)

Optional: This would be a great time to share your salvation testimony about how you gave your life to Jesus—Be brief with this and focus on the idea that you knew you had done wrong things and that you needed Jesus to save you.

TELL the kids that if they want to talk with someone about how they can know for sure that they’d go to Heaven, they can go to any of their leaders and either that leader will talk with them or take them to someone who will talk with them about it.

(VERY IMPORTANT—If a child, regardless of his age, wants to know more about how to be saved, we always engage them one-on-one in conversation about this. We want our leaders to be trained to know how to deal with any age and we are very careful with the decisions that children might make. However, we NEVER lead a class or a large group in a prayer for salvation. This is a decision that we want to sit down and talk with them individually about. If a child has questions and you have been trained and are ready to share with him how to give his life to Jesus, then talk with him one-on-one. If not, please let us know in the children’s office and someone will pull the child aside to speak with him.)

Leader: *“What do we know?”* Students: *“Jesus Saves!”*

Leader: *“That’s impossible!”* Students: *“Not for God!”*

PRAYER PART

Choose 2 volunteers to hold the "Lord's Prayer" sign. Ask your kids to say it with you.

SAY: Today I'm going to give you a Quiet Quiz—In other words, I'm going to make a statement and in your head I want you to quietly decide whether the statement is true or false. Then I'll call on one person to give me an answer.

Question #1—God only hears your prayers when you're at church. (False. God hears you wherever you are.)

Question #2—The Bible says to bow your head when you pray. (False. In the Bible we find people praying in all sorts of positions—kneeling, lying on the floor, standing and raising their hands, etc. You can pray in whatever position you are.)

Question #3—You can pray with your eyes open. (True. The reason we close our eyes is to keep things from distracting us while we pray, but God hears you with your eyes open just as he does with your eyes closed.)

Question #4—You can pray quietly without saying a word and God will hear you. (True. God hears your thoughts and knows what you think. You don't have to pray aloud. You can pray quietly too.)

Question #5—You can talk to God about anything and everything. (True. Many people, however, only talk to God once or twice a day and only about making requests or about big situations. You can talk with God throughout your day about anything and everything.)

Prayer Requests

SAY: Now I want us to bow our heads and close our eyes. I'm going to call out a few of the prayer requests that were turned in this morning and as I do, I want you to ask Jesus to help these situations. Then keep praying for these anytime you think about them this week.

***Conclude by praying** specifically for your students to trust Jesus as their Lord and Savior when the time is right. Thank the Lord that He answers prayer and is even greater than death.*

Dismiss to Small Groups

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time.

Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.

SMALL GROUPS

Craft

(NOTE: You might want to introduce the craft to everyone and explain what it means before dismissing them to their tables.)

OLDER KIDS

“Jesus Saves!” Headbands

You will need: Enough cut strips of cloth for each student to have one. Fabric markers to write on the cloth.

Lead your students in writing “Jesus Saves!” or “Jesus Lives!” on their headbands and in decorating them.

During this craft, make the most of every opportunity to get to know your students better AND to find out where they are spiritually.

YOUNGER KIDS

My Favorite “Jesus Story” Pillow Case

You will need: Enough pillow cases for each student to have one. Fabric markers to write and draw on the cloth.

We’ve been asking the students throughout this series about their favorite stories about Jesus. By now, hopefully they can easily choose one to put on their pillow case.

During this craft, make the most of every opportunity to get to know your students better AND to find out where they are spiritually. Also, ask them to tell you about the stories they are drawing.

Prayer—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.