

Miracles of Jesus: Jesus' friend Lazarus



How many of Jesus' miracles can you remember?

Watch together:

Jesus was friends with Mary, Martha and their brother, Lazarus. Today we will hear about what happened when Lazarus became ill, it may not happen as you expect! Watch this animated video: <https://youtu.be/Dca8SSxXCmM>

You can also read what happened in the Bible in John 11:1-43

Chat together:

I wonder what you found most surprising about this story?

Why do you think Jesus didn't go to Lazarus straight away?

Why do you think Jesus cried outside Lazarus' tomb?

I wonder what Jesus is saying to you through what happened in this story?

I wonder if Jesus didn't rush to his friend's bedside when he was ill because he wanted to show people that he was who he said he was - the Son of God? To show the people that God is mighty and powerful? Lots of people trusted God when they saw what happened.

The story shows us too that Jesus is sad when we are sad, he cares about how we are feeling, and he shares in our happiness too.

Jesus said that he is 'the resurrection and the life'. Resurrection means coming alive again. Jesus is saying that if we trust him, we can live forever with him in heaven! That means believing that he's the one who can save us from the wrong things we do and bring us back to God. So even when we get old and die, we can be sure that the story won't end there - Jesus promises that we will be with him forever.

Pray together:

In today's story Jesus did something that most people think would be impossible. Sometimes we are worried about lots of things and we don't think Jesus can do anything about them - but he always can.

Think about your day and if there are some things that you worry about and maybe write them down or take it in turns to name them and then say together "With God, nothing is impossible"

Dear God, thank you, that for you nothing is impossible. Thank you that you care about us and you provide for us. Please help us when we are worried, to trust you. Please help us to remember your promises - that you will always be with us and that we will live with you forever. Amen

Make together: Lazarus is alive!

Make a Lazarus puppet out of paper or card and make him bounce with joy at being alive.

Cut a body shape out using this picture as a guide. If you fold a piece of card or paper and place the top of Lazarus' head on the fold you can cut out a double body. Cut four long strips of paper and fold them like a concertina, then glue them on the back of Lazarus' body for his arms and legs. Fold down the other body shape and glue together to hide the ends of the papers.



Other activities to try together:

Forever pictures

Jesus will be our friend forever, even when we're old and die, we will stay living with him in heaven forever. Can you imagine what that will be like? Find some colouring pencils or maybe some sparkly collage materials and create a picture of what you think heaven will be like!

Release your imagination

Watch this film clip <https://youtu.be/uGGRIj0teDM> and pause it at 10 seconds.

What does the town seem like? How do the people feel?

It seems like no one has any hope or joy. Watch the rest of the clip now and think about what happened.

It seems like everything changed, colour was brought into the scene and people had hope. In the same way Jesus understands what it is like to feel as though life is colourless and when we feel sad. However, he brings hope and life to our situations and light and colour to our lives. You may like to pray about this for yourself and for other people.

Flowers

Sometimes we give flowers to people when they are sad to show them that we care about them and that we are sad too. Maybe you could make some paper flowers or draw a picture of flowers to give to someone who is feeling a bit sad at the moment. What message could you add to tell them that Jesus loves them and cares for them?

