

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 4 • Unit 5 • Week 2

LAZARUS

OBJECTIVE:

To show through the example of Lazarus that Jesus understands and sympathizes with our feelings and life's tragedies.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Ask: What would you do if someone told you that somebody you loved had died?

Say: Of course, you would be very sad. This happened to Jesus—someone He loved like a brother was sick and died.

Our story today tells us what Jesus did when He heard the news. It also shows us just how a miracle can happen.

BIBLE LESSON:

"Lazarus"—John 11.

Say: A certain man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in a town called Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. Mary and Martha sent a message to Christ, who was in Jerusalem. They said that Lazarus was very sick. Jesus loved Lazarus and his two sisters. They had been good friends to Him.

Say: After Jesus heard this, it was two more days before He could leave Jerusalem to go see His friends. Jesus told His disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go and wake him out of his sleep."

Ask: Do you know what Christ meant by saying Lazarus was asleep?

Say: He knew that Lazarus was dead. The Bible tells us that to be dead is just like being asleep until Christ returns and we are resurrected. Jesus knew that Lazarus was already dead. The disciples thought Jesus meant that Lazarus really was only sleeping. Jesus told them “Lazarus is dead!” Then He told them that He was glad He wasn’t with Lazarus when he died, so that now the disciples would see something that would make them believe in Jesus.

Ask: What do you think He meant by this?

Say: If Jesus had been with Lazarus He would have healed him before he could have died—then the disciples would not have seen the miracle Jesus was about to perform.

Say: When Jesus got to Bethany, along with His disciples, He found that Lazarus had been dead for four days.

Ask: Do you think it was too late for Jesus to help Lazarus?

Say: Many people had come to Bethany to comfort Mary and Martha over the loss of their brother. As soon as Martha heard Jesus was coming, she privately told Mary that He was on His way. When He arrived, the sisters told Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, Lazarus would not have died.”

Ask: How do you think the sisters knew that Lazarus wouldn’t have died if Jesus had been there? What do you think they thought Jesus would have done for their brother?

Say: Martha told Jesus, “I know, even now, whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus told her, “Your brother shall rise again.” Martha said, “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” She thought they would not see their brother until they would be in the Kingdom.

Say: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live again.” He said, “Whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” Then Christ asked Martha if she believed Him.

Ask: What do you think Martha told Jesus?

Say: She said she believed Jesus and she knew He was the Son of God.

Say: When Jesus saw Mary and all the Jews weeping over Lazarus, He groaned inside and was troubled.

Say: Jesus asked where they had laid Lazarus. Jesus also cried because Lazarus was a dear friend and He loved him.

Say: They took Jesus to the grave. It was a cave with a stone in front of it.

Say: Jesus told some of the men to roll the stone away. Martha told Jesus that there would be an odor since Lazarus had been dead four days. Jesus told her that since she believed in Him, she would see the glory of God.

Ask: What do you think He was going to do?

Say: Jesus prayed to God out loud so the people would hear Him. He wanted them to see that it was God who had sent Him. They were about to see a miracle.

Ask: Can you tell me what a miracle is?

Say: A miracle is an event or happening that cannot be explained by science or nature. It is something truly supernatural.

Say: After Jesus had prayed to God, He cried in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." At that, Lazarus came out of the cave wrapped hand and foot with cloths and his face was covered with a napkin. Jesus said, "Loose him and let him go."

Ask: What do you think the people watching this were thinking? Do you think they were afraid? What do you think Lazarus looked like?

Say: Lazarus probably looked like a mummy, all dressed in white.

Ask: What did Jesus mean by "Loose him!"

Say: To loose him meant to unwrap him. Poor Lazarus could not move about very well with his cloth wrappings.

Say: This miracle was just one more thing that Jesus did because of His love for His fellow man. We can't perform miracles, but we can show our love for others just as Jesus tells us to.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Pictures of people already cut out of magazines (or each student can draw a person)
Construction paper
Glue
Envelope

Do the following art activity of putting the pieces together.

As we put these pictures of people back together, let's remember how Jesus brought Lazarus back together from death.

1. Each student gets a magazine picture of a person (or each student can draw a picture of a person, making it cover the whole paper).
2. Each student pastes the picture on construction paper.
3. Cut into about 15 to 20 pieces.
4. Re-assemble the pieces.
5. Each student gets an envelope to keep the puzzle in.
6. Pass puzzles around and try each other's puzzles.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

family activity

THE POINT:

To show Jesus understands and sympathizes with our feelings and life's tragedies.

ASK ME...

Did Jesus show any feelings when He arrived at Lazarus' burial site?

What did Christ do after He prayed to God?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Talk about the resurrection from the dead. If we show ourselves obedient and friendly to Jesus Christ, He will command that we come forth from the dead (if we have died) when He returns to this earth.

Go through the local newspaper and read the names of those in the obituaries who have died and explain what will happen to these people. Or go through the *United News* and show the pictures and read about those who died. If children have not had much experience with death, be tender and discreet. Use this time to explain the resurrection.

MEMORY VERSE:

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."