

LESSON PLAN

RAISING OF LAZARUS

John 11

Lesson Memory Verse: John 11:25 - "Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believes in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Lesson Aim: To believe that Jesus Christ will raise all true believers from the dead to live with Him.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Here is a story about a boy who was born deaf. He was a normal boy in every other way, but he could not hear. As a result, he had no close friends. He tried to be friendly, but when the boys talked to him, he could not hear them and so he did not answer them. They would write notes and gesture with their hands, but even with all that, he felt that he did not really understand them and they did not really understand him. So he felt very lonely much of the time. He really wanted a close friend who would understand him.

Little did he realize that his parents understood his problem and they made plans to find a real friend for their son. They told him by writing a note that he was going to meet a special friend on his birthday. His birthday was only a few days away, but he did not know if he should be excited or not. All of the friends he had ever met liked him for awhile, but they soon grew tired of his hearing problem and left him alone. He was sure that the same thing would happen again.

On the day of his birthday he could see his parents were excited, but he wasn't so sure. They gave him his presents, but he looked around for this special friend that they had promised. His parents scribbled a short message on a pad which told him not to worry about the special friend until he had opened his presents. He obeyed them, but he was still puzzled because he could see how excited his mother was. As he opened his presents he received a game, a shirt, a flashlight, a painting set and a model airplane.

The last present was bigger than all of the rest. It was very beautiful with a big red bow on the top of it. But there was something strange about it. It had little holes all over the top of it and it moved. He really was puzzled now. What was in that box? He had to find out. Excitedly he tore off the paper and opened up the box. When he looked inside his eyes blinked with unbelief. What he saw was a cute little puppy. In a split second he picked up the puppy and lifted it to his face. The little puppy licked his ear and then his nose and then his cheek. The boy squealed with delight. Now he knew who the special friend was. His puppy would be a good friend and they would really understand each other.

In our Bible story today we will hear about two wonderful ladies, but they were very sad. They were even more sad than the deaf boy because they had lost someone very dear to them. Jesus tried to cheer up one of the ladies with a promise that He would do something wonderful for her just like the parents tried to cheer up their son with the promise of a special friend. This lady, whose name was Martha, loved Jesus, but she did not understand what He could do for her that would make her forget about her sadness. She doubted Jesus just like the boy doubted that his parents could find a friend that would really understand him and love to be with him. But as we listen to the Bible story, it turns out that Jesus gave a better gift to Martha and her sister than the parents' gift of a puppy to their son. It was a gift that took away all of their sadness. It even took away the sadness from their friends, and this gift will even make you glad. That is why I want to tell you this Bible story. But before I tell you the story, let us look at the promise that Jesus gave to Martha in John 11:25. This will be our memory verse, so I want you to know what it means.

HE (for Authority): Before the children can appreciate today's Bible story, they must understand the meaning of this verse. Here are some difficult words and thoughts to explain to the children: "dead," "resurrection," and "believes." Before you can help the children understand what "resurrection" means, you must help them understand what "dead" means. "Dead" – children learn truth easiest through that which they experience or see. So you should ask the children to tell you what they have seen die. They may tell you about a pet animal, bird or fish that has died. They may tell you about a fly or a worm that has died. If they seem to have a fair understanding of death, then try to help them understand "resurrection." "Resurrection" – means whatever is dead is made alive again. It can move and eat and breathe again. "Believes" – when someone makes a promise and we are sure it is going to happen, we say we believe him. In the same way, we need to believe Jesus' promise to take away our sins when we truly hate our sins and ask Him to save us from them. When we believe in Jesus to save us from our sins, He becomes our Savior.

LESSON PLAN

When Jesus said He was the resurrection, He meant that He was the One who could raise people from the dead. Now when a person dies, he no longer can talk, or eat or walk. When he no longer lives, we take his body to the cemetery and bury it. We cannot make his body live again. But Jesus can! That is why we call Him the resurrection.

Jesus is also the life because He can give people life. He gives us life for today, but better yet, He gives those who believe in Him life forever. Even if a person dies, he will live if he believes in Jesus as His Savior.

You may want to illustrate death and resurrection with a ballpoint pen. Remove the inside of the pen to show death. The inside is taken away to show how the soul leaves the body. Leave the outside shell of the pen on the table or desk to show how the body remains on earth when death comes to a person. Then put the inside of the pen back in the outer shell of the pen to show the resurrection. When the pen is put together it can write again just like the soul that is put back into a person makes it possible for him to live again.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our Bible story today we will see how Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

I. Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus - John 11:1-15

- A. Jesus was told Lazarus was sick - 11:1-6
- B. Jesus knew Lazarus was already dead - 11:11-14
- C. Jesus would raise Lazarus; the disciples would believe He would raise all believers - 11:4, 15

WE: We need to trust Jesus to take care of us when we die. He knows how to raise us from the dead.

II. Jesus promised to raise Lazarus - John 11:16-38

- A. Jesus went to Lazarus' town - 11:16-19
- B. Jesus met Martha and promised to raise Lazarus from the dead - 11:20-27
- C. Jesus met Mary weeping with her friends; their sorrow and unbelief made Him weep - 11:28-38

WE: If we do not believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life, we will cause Him great sorrow.

III. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead - John 11:39-44

- A. Jesus commanded the grave stone of Lazarus to be removed - 11:39
- B. Jesus once again promised Martha that He would raise Lazarus - 11:40
- C. Jesus thanked His Father for hearing Him even before He raised Lazarus - 11:41-42
- D. Jesus called for Lazarus to come out of the grave - 11:43
- E. Lazarus was raised up and he came out of the grave by the power of Jesus Christ - 11:44. This was a precious gift for Martha and Mary. They were very happy to have their brother alive again.

WE: We can find joy in knowing this true story. Do you know how it can give us joy? (We learned that Jesus had power to raise Lazarus from the dead, so we know He will raise us from the dead. We also learned that He kept His promise to Martha, so we know He will keep His promises to us as well.) Just as He said He would, He will also keep His promises to us. (Let them try to discover the answer.)

BE (for Action): What Jesus did for Lazarus; He will do for all true believers. When He returns, He will raise all believers from the dead and change all living believers so they will be able to rise from the earth to meet Him in the clouds. Then He will take them to Heaven (read 1 Th 4:16-17). If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you will be with those who will meet Him in the air. If you have not received Him, you can still do it and be ready for Him when He comes. I will talk with anyone who has questions about Jesus' coming after class is dismissed. Let us pray and thank God for Jesus' promise to raise us from the dead and for His power to do it.