



**Mustard Seed Lesson for Sunday, 11 February 2007
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“Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life”

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: John 11: 17–27

17 Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already.

18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

19 And many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house.

21 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

22 But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

GOLDEN TEXT (Memory Verse):

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25 KJV).

LESSON OBJECTIVE:

The lesson objective is to teach that Jesus has power to give life. The following teacher’s notes should help direct the lesson discussion for the children.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
2. Jesus will raise all the dead someday.
3. Jesus gives eternal life right now to all who believe in Him.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

Aids needed for this lesson include: paper and crayons for "Helping to Remember," description poster of Jesus (if you have kept one this quarter) and copies of activity sheets for any lesson activities.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

The lessons this quarter have centered on Jesus – aspects of His person, character and mission. We have focused on Jesus as the image of God, how He sustains, supports, guides and protects. All that Jesus is gives us hope, in this life and in the life to come. God promises us that death is not the final chapter. Death may destroy our earthy bodies, but God will raise us up again someday.

In this week's lesson, we learn how Jesus visited Mary and Martha after their brother, Lazarus, had died. Jesus promised Martha that He would give eternal life to all who believe in Him. Even if a believer dies physically, Jesus has still promised to raise him from the dead. Jesus demonstrated that He had this power over death by raising Lazarus.

TELLING THE LESSON:

1. Who were Lazarus, Martha and Mary?

Mary, Martha and Lazarus were sisters and brother. They seemed to have been close friends of Jesus who lived in a town near Jerusalem. Jesus would visit and stay in their home when He was in Jerusalem.

2. Why did Mary and Martha have to call Jesus for help?

Lazarus got very sick one day, and the sisters sent for Jesus so that He could come and heal Lazarus. They knew that Jesus loved and cared for Lazarus and wanted Jesus to heal him. However, Lazarus died before Jesus got there. He had been dead in the grave for four days when Jesus and the disciples arrived.

3. What happened with Lazarus when Jesus finally arrived?

Jesus used Lazarus' death to teach his friends, disciples and others that He had the power to give life, and that not even death could change that. Even though Lazarus had been dead for four days, Jesus raised him from the dead. Lazarus was alive again, and Jesus showed them that He had the power to raise the dead.

4. What does it mean that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life?

Jesus is the life-giver. He is able to give life and also to restore to life those that are dead. Jesus has power over death. Someday, at the right time, He will raise from the dead every person who has ever died. We will see our loved ones again if they have accepted Jesus as Savior. We call this the resurrection. Beyond this, Jesus also promises that He gives eternal life right now to all who believe in His name.

5. What is eternal life?

Eternal life is life that does not end, life that goes on forever. Jesus gives us life now and life forever – a life that not even physical death can overcome. Eternal life is promised to all who believe in Jesus. Our physical body may one day die, but this is only the normal end of physical life. God promises to one day end all death (I Corinthians 15:26, 54) and to reunite our bodies with our soul and spirit. We will live again and then it will be forever!!

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

While our loved ones are alive, we can tell them about Jesus. We can invite them to trust Jesus as their Savior. When Jesus raises us from the dead someday, it will be too late to trust Him as Savior. God has decided that we must do that now, in this life. Let us use every opportunity to let everyone know about Jesus and the life that He offers us. Let us pray for churches, ministries, and missionaries who are telling about Jesus in our country and in other countries all over the world. Let us pray that many will be saved.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25 KJV)

When He was on earth, Jesus raised the dead. He has power to raise the dead. The Father gave Him that job. Jesus will give our bodies new life one day, but He can give our spirits new life right now. Then, whether our earthly bodies live or die, our spirits will be alive. All this is possible because Jesus has control over life and death.

HELPING TO REMEMBER / LESSON ACTIVITIES:

- (1) Encourage each student to learn the golden text – use this as the memory verse for the lesson.
- (2) Add “Resurrection and Life” to the poster.
- (2) Let the children draw pictures to illustrate their understanding of the resurrection, how God will one day raise to life everyone who has ever died.
- (3) Word Search Activity included at end of this lesson summary.

PRAYER:

Father God, thank you that Jesus has power over death. Thank you for being the life-giver. Help us to tell others about Jesus and the life that He offers each of us. In Jesus’ name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK’S LESSON:

Next week’s lesson is “Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life” from John 14:1-14.

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WORD SEARCH

(Jesus: Resurrection and Life)

Find each of the following words.

JESUS

RESURRECTION

LIFE

MARTHA

LAZARUS

MARY

BELIEVE

DEATH

ETERNAL

M L M Y H E E H T E Y Y M E E D R T R
E U T M T T E J L L R N L I T E Y R E
S A E A L S B A L T A M Z E S E Y A A
M E S N E R Z I M A M M R S E E R F T
T A L R E A R I A J N B E L I E V E E
S T A S R E T U Y T E R D F A L L S I
T U Z U E E E U I R A M E L D L L E A
I T S M D E E O I E S M A T R U C E M
A R Y F S U S E J R N L T O E E L Y S
I A E M A M I R H T A E H L V E R L E
L A J R N I N F L R A H T R A M N B T
E S R N E A N L E E L B N L S H R D T
I M E R N N A A L L A I S L R A I A R
E U A F E Y E R C R E M L I F E R N E
R E S U R R E C T I O N T I A L R E O
H T E L E R O H S E E D E R E U O T R

ANSWER KEY for WORD SEARCH (Jesus: Resurrection and Life)

Y
L R
A L A
Z A M
A N B E L I E V E
R R D
U E
S A T
S U S E J T E
H
A H T R A M

L I F E
R E S U R R E C T I O N