#### Lesson 6:

#### Jesus Raises Lazarus

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

John 11:1-46

MEMORY WORK:

John 3:16

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Jesus cares and understands when I am sad.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

When Jesus was here on Earth, He was like us in that He felt happy, hungry, and tired. He even felt sad sometimes, like we do.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Since Jesus traveled from place to place preaching and helping people, He often depended on the kindness and hospitality of people for food and shelter. One place He often stopped was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (They were brother and sisters.), in the small village of **Bethany**. [Luke 10:38-39 tells us that “Martha welcomed Him into her house.”]

**NOTE: Bethany—**a small village about two miles east of Jerusalem, near the Mount of Olives. It was also the home of Simon the leper (Matthew 26:6-13), and Jesus’ ascension took place near there (Luke 24:50-51). Today it is a small, poor, agricultural village.

1. Lazarus became very sick, and his worried sisters sent for their friend Jesus. But Jesus did not go to Bethany right away. He loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus very much, but He waited two days before heading toward their home. He told His disciples that Lazarus was “asleep,” but they did not understand. Finally, He told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”
2. By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been dead four days. There were still many people at Mary and Martha’s home, trying to comfort them. [After a close relative’s death, family members spent seven days at home mourning and being visited by friends. This was called “shivah.”] When Jesus arrived, the sisters told Him that if He had been there, Lazarus would not have died. Martha said to Jesus that she believed that “whatever You ask of God, God will give You” (vs. 22). [Notice Martha’s statements of faith in verses 24 and 27.] Their friends could only weep. Jesus was the only One who could really help.
3. Jesus was very sad when He saw how upset the sisters and their friends were. When He was taken to the grave, Jesus cried, sharing Mary and Martha’s sorrow and understanding their pain better than anyone. [The depth of Jesus’ emotions is shown in verses 33, 35, and 38.]
4. Lazarus had been buried in a cave with a great stone rolled in front of the opening. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.” But Martha didn’t think that was a good idea because Lazarus had been in the tomb so long. She thought it would smell terrible in the tomb. When the stone was rolled away, Jesus prayed to His Heavenly Father. He wanted this miracle to prove to the crowd, and to the two sisters, Who He was, and He wanted to praise God.
5. Jesus called out to Lazarus, telling him to come out of the tomb. Suddenly, Lazarus walked out, wrapped in burial cloths. Jesus told those around him to take off the strips of fabric and “set him free.” Because of this miracle [the 7th recorded by John], many more people believed Jesus was God’s Son, and many people praised God. [But some were jealous of Jesus and began to look for ways to get rid of Him (11:46-53).]
6. When someone dies, we are sad and hurt, just like Mary and Martha were. Jesus cares about our sorrow and will help us during sad times, just as He helped them. We have other people and God’s Word to comfort us, and we can talk to God in prayer when we are sad and hurting. From our experiences, we learn to comfort and help others (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** In New Testament times, burial had to take place quickly because the hot temperatures of Palestine would accelerate body decomposition. The body was usually washed, wrapped loosely (by women) in strips of linen cloth, and carried to the burial place on a stretcher of some kind. Burial could take place in a natural or man- made cave (“sepulcher” or “tomb”). The entrance to the cave was sealed with a disc- shaped or round stone placed in a sloped groove. Bodies were not often buried in the hard ground. Some (mainly the wealthy) had their bodies covered in a paste made of spices, which was held to the body by layers of fabric strips. As the paste hardened and soaked into the bandages, a preservative mould formed around the body. A cap was put on the head, and the jaw was often closed by a bandage under the chin. After a year, the family would go back to the tomb and gather the bones, which would then be put into a niche in the wall of the tomb.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAl VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “06.”

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Let the kids role play the story.
* Have the kids wrap up a doll in “grave cloths” like a mummy. Use toilet paper or white crepe paper.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/1-7-8RQ.pdf) for example questions)
2. What happens when we die? God has given each of us a soul that will never die. I can’t see your soul, and you can’t see mine. The soul is the spiritual part of us (the part of us that is like God) that causes us to think and feel. When we die, our bodies stop working and are usually buried in graves, but our souls live on forever.
3. Someday our souls will go to heaven to live with God forever (if we die while we are still children or if we die as Christians when we are grown-ups). Many times people get very sick before they die. But in heaven, our souls will never be sick, sad, hungry, lonely, or afraid. Heaven is the perfect place for everyone who tries to obey God while they’re living on Earth.
4. Lazarus, the daughter of Jairus (Mark 5:22-34), and the widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:11-16) were all raised from the dead by Jesus. Dorcas was raised from the dead (with power from God) by Peter (Acts 9:36-43). But all of these people eventually died again. Jesus was the only person to rise from the dead never to die again. We want to do everything we can to live for Jesus in this life so that when we die, we can go to heaven to live with Jesus, and Lazarus, and many other great people of faith.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Help the kids make cards for the sick and shut-ins.
* Basic Review Game like tic-tac-toe or do a general review with the Bible Flashcards

### Review Questions

1. Who were Jesus’ friends?
   1. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
2. Where did Mary, Martha, and Lazarus live?
   1. Bethany
3. What was wrong with Lazarus?
   1. He was sick.
4. What did Mary and Martha do?
   1. They sent for Jesus, because they knew He could help Lazarus.
5. How long did Jesus wait before He left to go to see His friends?
   1. Two days
6. What did Jesus tell His disciples about Lazarus?
   1. He is asleep. Then He told them he was dead.
7. How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived at Mary and Martha’s house?
   1. Four days
8. In Bible times, how long did they spend mourning someone’s death?
   1. Seven days
9. What did Martha tell Jesus when He arrived?
   1. That if He had been there, Lazarus would not have died
10. What did Jesus do when He was taken to Lazarus’ grave?
    1. He cried.
11. Where was Lazarus buried?
    1. In a cave with a great stone in front of it
12. What did Jesus ask them to do?
    1. “Remove the stone.”
13. What did Jesus do after the stone was rolled away?
    1. He prayed to God. He wanted to prove to the crowd, and to Mary and Martha, just who He was.
14. After Jesus had prayed, what did He do then?
    1. He called out for Lazarus to come out and told them to take off his burial cloths and “set him free.”

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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