LESSON 9

JESUS CALLS LAZARUS FROM THE GRAVE



Aim: **To teach the children how Jesus showed he has power over death.**

Scripture Reading: **John 11:1-45**

Memory Verse: **John 1:6-7**
Complete the two verses the children have started to learn in Lesson 8.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

It is so good to have friends. What do you like about having friends? Give the children time to respond. It's fun to do things with other people. Many activities – like soccer for instance – you can't do on your own.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus had some special friends, too. They were two sisters and a brother from Bethany called Martha, Mary and Lazarus. One day Lazarus became so seriously ill that the sisters sent Jesus a message telling him to come. Surprisingly Jesus did not hurry off at once to see his dear friend (11:1-3, 5-6).
2. A few days later Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus had died. Now he would go to Bethany. He said he was glad he had not been there to help when Lazarus died because the events that were to come would show God's power and glory even better. That would help the people to trust in him, Jesus, who is the Son of God (11:4, 11-15).
3. Martha came out of the house to meet Jesus. She and her sister Mary were upset that Jesus had not come to them earlier. Martha was sure that Lazarus would not have died if Jesus had come more quickly (11:17-21). Mary said the same thing when she finally greeted Jesus (11:32).
4. They all went to the place where Lazarus was buried. Jesus was not ashamed to show his sadness. That made some people wonder even more why, if Jesus could have healed a blind man, he could not have stopped Lazarus from dying (11:33-37). What they did not know was that Jesus was going to do something far greater.

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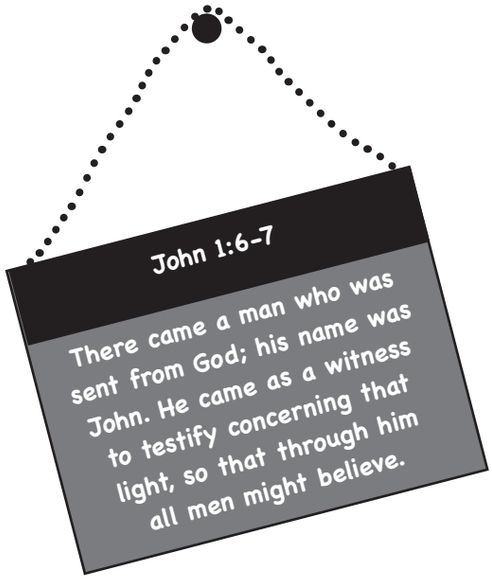
5. **Describe what Jesus said and did at the tomb.** Martha tried to stop him from opening the tomb, because Lazarus had been dead for some days by then (11:38–39). **Show Picture 9.** God's power over death was demonstrated when Lazarus came out of the tomb alive! As a result many people believed in Jesus as the Son of God (11:40–45).

Our Response to the Story

Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" (11:25). He said it that day to comfort Martha. However, this also is a promise of everlasting life with God for all who believe in Jesus. It includes us, too.

Jesus has opened the way for this life by his own death on the cross. There is no greater comfort for those who mourn the death of a Christian than this promise of Jesus. Jesus Christ has power over mankind's greatest enemy, death.

Instil the Memory Verse



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