



Jesus Raises Lazarus

John 11:1-44

God Statement: Jesus is Awesome

KEY VERSE:

“With God, all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26, NIRV

CHECK-IN

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.

As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.

If a child brings money for offering, allow them to put the money in the class offering bank. Thank them for sharing with others.

If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.

Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!

CONNECT WITH KIDS

Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:

When a child feels...(most of the time)

SAFE: physically and emotionally

SEEN: known and understood

SOOTHED: calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus Raised Lazarus

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus Raised Lazarus.

Say: Do you have any special friends? Do you love those friends a lot? Who are they? Well, Jesus had some special friends. He loved them very much. One of his friends had something awful happen to him, and Jesus helped him out. We're going to see how awesome Jesus is later when we see just what He did!

PLAY: Let's Be Friends!

Supplies: none

Directions: Make a circle with the children in your class. Have them sit down. Pick one person to start. (This game will look a little bit like Duck, Duck, Goose) Child walks around the circle tapping children on the head, saying (one tap per word per person) "Will You Be My Friend?" When the child lands on the word "friend", the kid who is tapped will stand up and walk around the circle one time with the other child before the first kid sits down. Now the next person starts tapping. "Will (tap) You (tap) Be (tap) My (tap) Friend (tap)?" Repeat as desired.

Say: Today we're going to talk about some of Jesus' very important friends. But first, we're going to practice making friends!

While you are working with each child, say:

- Friends are special.
- Jesus had some friends. Their names were Lazarus and Mary and Martha.
- Jesus helped His friends when they were sad. How can you help your friends who are sad.

CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.

Try singing: “Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere.”

LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton’s house for Large Group time. .

WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

Offering – ask: Did anyone bring money for an offering today? This money is used to help other people. You may put your money in the class offering bank.

WORSHIP

Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *Thank you God*
- *Jesus Loves Me*

READ A BIBLE STORY

Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God’s word!

This week, read about a story about Jesus Raised Lazarus with the picture story in your folder.

BIG IDEA:

Jesus helps His friends. Jesus’ friend Lazarus died. Jesus helped him by making him come alive again.

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: Jesus Raises Lazarus – use the story pictures from your folder.

Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.

Invite Hamilton to come out and see the class. Hamilton brought a friend.

Say: Hi Hamilton, who did you bring today? ***Hamilton whispers in your ear.*** Oh, your friend is Sebastian? Nice to meet you, Sebastian. What do you and your friends like to do? ***Ham whispers in your ear.*** Play tag? Play ball? Read books? You sound like good friends. We're going to hear about some friends of Jesus today. Why don't you and your friends go back to your house? Bye Hamilton! Bye Sebastian! ***Put them back in the house.***

Read the Story Cards about Jesus raising Lazarus. You can find these cards in your folder.

Say: Jesus is awesome! He loved His friends. He can do anything. He even raised Lazarus from the dead!

SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)

This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.

We are learning that "Jesus is Awesome." (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Encourage class to sit quietly.

Say: Jesus is Awesome! That is because He is God. He can do anything!

Say: Let's think of some awesome things that Jesus did in the Bible. ***Recap the last couple of weeks using the prompts below.***

- Remember when everyone was standing outside listening to Jesus all day? They were hungry. What did Jesus do?
 - Yes, He fed lots of people with just a little fish and bread.

- Remember when the disciples were out in the boat and they saw someone coming toward them, walking on the water? Who was that?
 - Yes, only Jesus can walk on the water!
- Remember our story today? Jesus' friend Lazarus was sick and then he died. What did Jesus do?
 - Yes, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead! He made Lazarus alive again!

Say: With God all things are possible! That's our verse from the Bible. Jesus still does awesome things!

BLESSING (1 minute)

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Say: Remember friends, Jesus is awesome! And He loves you!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

MAKE: Coloring Sheet

Supplies: coloring sheet and crayons

Directions: Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

Say: Let's color this picture to help us remember how awesome God is!

While you are working with each child, ask:

- Who are all these people? (*Jesus' friends – Lazarus, Martha, and Mary*)
- Do they look happy or sad?
- What awesome things has Jesus done?

PLAY!

Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

Suggestions of activities:

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

CHECK-OUT

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"