



LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Has Power over Death

SCRIPTURE: [John 11](#)

WORD OF WONDER: [From Titus 3:5](#)

Grief brings a wide range of emotions, some of which are unexpected and surprising. It is unpredictable and all-encompassing. Grief, like death, is something you're never truly prepared for.

In [John 11](#), Lazarus, brother of Martha and Mary and friend of Jesus, is sick. Both of his sisters informed Jesus that Lazarus was sick. How did Jesus respond to the news? "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it" ([John 11:4](#), NIV).

After Lazarus' passing, there was a period of mourning for those who knew and loved him. Even Jesus, the One who had power over death, wept ([John 11:35](#)). The pain was palpable and unimaginable. Mary and Martha believed that Lazarus' death could have been prevented if Jesus had shown up earlier.

Jesus felt the weight of death, which He Himself faced not too long after raising Lazarus. However, that weight did not keep Lazarus in the grave. Jesus spoke, and Lazarus walked.

- Have you ever felt the presence of Jesus' humanness in your life?
- How does the pain Jesus felt resonate with you?
- When has Jesus met you in your pain?

The pain of death is real, but so is Jesus' power over it.

—Kathie Phillips

Senior Director of Next Gen Ministry

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Lazarus was a follower of Jesus and a brother to Martha and Mary. Both sisters also appear in [Luke 10](#), which tells the story of Martha's distraction by all of her preparations. Jesus loved this family; His miracle shows God's glory and was also personal.

WHAT?

Jesus did an amazing miracle by raising Lazarus from the dead. Although He knew Lazarus was sick, Jesus waited for him to die because He knew that this miracle would display God's glory and convince many that He was the Messiah.

WHERE?

Martha, Mary, and Lazarus lived in a small town called Bethany, just east of Jerusalem. Jesus had gone back across the Jordan to escape a group who wished to stone Him ([John 10:31–39](#)). He returned to Judea when He heard that Lazarus was sick.

WHEN?

Jesus was headed back toward Jerusalem as the time for His death drew near. The disciples feared Jesus would be killed ([John 11:16](#)). Yet this miracle convinced many more people that He was the Messiah even as it angered those plotting to kill Him.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Raising Lazarus was an astonishing sign of Christ's glory, but Martha was correct to anticipate the day when God will raise those of faith to an eternal life with Him. The same Spirit who raised Jesus will raise those who belong to Christ ([Romans 8:11](#)).



Curiosity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

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Curiosity Activity: Who Has the Power?

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), resealable bag (1 per every 8–10 kids)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Fix It Sheet](#) (1 per 8–10 kids)

Ahead of time, print copies of the [Fix It Sheet](#) (1 per 8–10 kids), and cut out the different tools and the objects to which they are matched. Place each set of matching objects in a disposable resealable bag.

Help kids form groups of 8–10. Each group should get one bag filled with the matching sets from the [Fix It Sheet](#).

Invite each group to gather and spread out the pictures on the floor or table. Help kids to match the pictures together according to which things they think go together. As kids match the pictures, ask:

- Why do some of the items go together?
- What problems were in the pictures?
- What things helped fix the problems?
- When have you seen a problem get fixed?

You did a great job matching! There are many problems in the world, and fortunately, there are also many people or things that can fix problems. Today, we will hear in God's big story about a time Jesus did something that only God can do! Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH**.





Belief

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

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Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:
God, thank You that You are our God! Please teach us today through the power of Your Holy Spirit and show us more about how Jesus has power over death. In Jesus' name, Amen.

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible.

Ask: What is this called? *The Bible*

Ask: Why is the Bible important? *Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.*

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Read from the Beginner Bible pg 418
Lazarus Lives Again

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

He saved us. It wasn't because of the good things we had done. It was because of his mercy. He saved us by washing away our sins.

— Titus 3:5 NiRV

Jesus has power over death, and this power gives us new life! Our Word of Wonder is from the book of Titus. Let's say **Titus 3:5 with powerful voices together. Say the verse several times together.**

Gather the kids together in a circle. Repeat the Word of Wonder several times together while performing the following motions: jumping Jacks, hopping on one foot, and balancing on bottoms while keeping hands and feet in the air. Then have kids hide under a table and lie down on the ground, pretending to be Lazarus in the tomb. When you say, "Come out!", they will jump out from under the table and shout the verse.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How do you feel knowing that Jesus has the power to forgive, save, and give us new life?**
- **Do you think it's easy or difficult for Jesus to do these things?**



Faith

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

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Craft: Unwrapping Lazarus

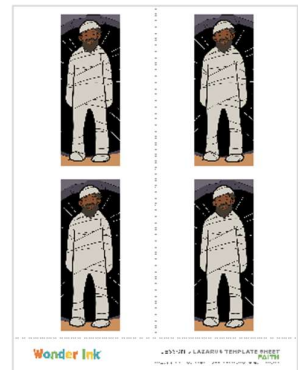
SUPPLIES: cardstock or paper (1 sheet per kid), scissors (prep only), crayons, markers, strips of white or grey crepe paper (3–4 strips per child), tape, baby doll (optional), stretchy bandage wrap (optional), glue (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Lazarus Template Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, consider using a large baby doll and stretchy bandage wrap to show kids how Lazarus would have been wrapped up inside the tomb. Then invite one kid to unwrap the baby doll.

From the very beginning, God had a plan to fix what is broken by sin in the world. God's plan was Jesus! Jesus died for our sins and gives us new life. Let's celebrate the new life that Jesus chose to give Lazarus!

Pass out a [Lazarus template](#) and coloring supplies to each kid. Once kids have finished coloring Lazarus, encourage them to wrap Lazarus using crepe paper streamers or tissue paper. Consider attaching a small piece of tape to the crepe paper to allow kids to wrap and unwrap Lazarus multiple times. Or use glue to adhere the stretchy bandage wrap for a more permanent craft.





Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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Closing Game: Come Out!

SUPPLIES: table or chairs, bed sheet or blanket (optional)

Set up a pretend “cave” in your room using tables and chairs (and a bed sheet or blanket, if available). Tell the kids to take turns going into the pretend cave. They can lie down and pretend to be Lazarus. Then when you say, “Come out!” they will come out of the pretend cave and say, “Jesus has power over death!”

In God’s big story today, we heard about how Jesus’ power brought Lazarus back to life! Let’s play a game to help us remember that Jesus is more powerful than anything—even death!

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His love and power.

God, thank You for loving us and giving us Jesus. Help us trust in You and Your power. In Jesus’ name, Amen.