



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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Play Stations

SUPPLIES: bubble solution, shallow pan, plastic bubble wands (1 per kid), small paper cups (1 per kid), plastic toy person, large foam cups (3), coloring utensils, bubble machine (optional), food coloring (optional)

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

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: Rising Bubbles

Set-up: Set out a shallow pan with bubble solution, bubble wands, and small paper cups. Consider adding food coloring to bubble solution to create colored bubbles for added fun. Turn on a bubble machine if this is an option in your environment.

Play: Let kids enjoy blowing bubbles using bubble wands. As the bubbles float up into the air, challenge kids to catch the bubbles using the paper cups. Tell kids that they will hear a story today about a man being raised to life—kind of like the bubbles rising.

Make It Inclusive!

Invite kids who are unable to chase bubbles to blow them or invite those kids to sit near a bubble machine (if available) to catch a lot of bubbles without having to move.

9:00 Service

Play Station: Where Is He?

Set-up: Set out three foam cups. The foam cups will act as pretend caves for the kids to use to hide the plastic toy person figure (Lazarus) inside.

Play: Allow kids to turn the cups over and hide the toy person under one cave (cup). Shuffle the cups around quickly several times. Once finished, ask kids to guess where Lazarus is hidden.

Make It Virtual!

This activity would work great in a digital or virtual setting!

Play Station: Lazarus Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the [Coloring Sheet](#). Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw their idea of something powerful.



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 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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Circle Time: Parachute Power

SUPPLIES: parachute or king-size bedsheet

Jesus is God's Son, and He came to teach us about God's kingdom. Jesus cares about people who are sick and sad. In God's big story today, Jesus showed His power by bringing Lazarus back to life. Let's celebrate Jesus' power by raising the parachute together while talking more about how Jesus has power over death.

Spread out the parachute on the floor. Gather the kids around the parachute. Answer the questions below as a group. Invite kids to raise the parachute above their heads and exclaim, "Jesus has power over death," and bring the parachute back to the ground after answering each question.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was Lazarus? (*Jesus' friend*)
- What happened to Lazarus? (*He got sick. He died.*)
- Why do you think Jesus didn't go to see Lazarus right away? (*to help people believe in Him*)
- How do you know Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters? (*Jesus cried with them.*)
- What happened when Jesus called Lazarus to come out of the tomb? (*Lazarus came out!*)
- What would you have done or said if you had seen Lazarus come out of the tomb?
- What does this story show us about Jesus?

Jesus died on the cross for our sins and will bring us new life, like He did for Lazarus. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and thank God for having power over death.



9:00 Service

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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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.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Jesus is so powerful! May you always know that Jesus has power over death and gives life. And may you always trust that Jesus' death and resurrection perfectly pays for your sins!

Closing Game: Wrapped Up

SUPPLIES: toilet paper (1–3 rolls), dowel rod or stick

Select one kid who is willing to be wrapped up in a roll of toilet paper and pretend to be Lazarus. Put a dowel rod or stick through a roll of toilet paper so you can hold onto the rod or stick without touching the toilet paper. Let kids take turns holding the toilet paper on the stick and wrapping it around the pretend Lazarus. Once Lazarus is partially wrapped in toilet paper, ask all kids to say, **“Lazarus, come out!”** Upon hearing this phrase, Lazarus should break free from toilet paper. Repeat as time allows.

In God's big story today, we heard how Jesus used His power to help Lazarus break free from death. Jesus' power over death helps us to break free from our sins so we can have new life as children of God!