

City SG—April 3rd, 2022

Today's Bible Story: You Raise Me Up (Lazarus Raised) • *John 11:1-45*

Today's Bottom Line: Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.

Monthly Memory Verse: *In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.* John 16:33b (NIRV)

1. Impossible Breakthrough

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Say, "We're going to play a Bible Story Review game now!"
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Instruct the teams to line up side by side about ten feet apart and facing each other.
- Direct the teams to link arms to form a strong barrier.
- Instruct the teams to take turns answering a review question together.
- If the team answers the question correctly, direct them to send a kid to the other team.
- Instruct the kid sent to the other team to unlink the team's arms (gently, not forcefully)—to break through the other team's line—and form a new link.
- If the team answers incorrectly, all kids remain with their team's line.
- The team who has the most members "break through" the opposing team, wins!

Review questions:

1. Where was Jesus when He found out Lazarus was sick? (*He had crossed the Jordan river and was a couple of days' journey away because the religious leaders were threatening to kill Him.*)
2. What were the names of Lazarus' sisters? (*Mary and Martha*)
3. How did Jesus respond when He got the news that Lazarus was sick? (*He said that Lazarus wasn't going to die and that his sickness would bring God glory.*)
4. What happened a few days later, after Jesus said Lazarus wasn't going to die? (*Lazarus died.*)
5. What did Jesus do? (*He returned to His friend.*)
6. How did Jesus respond when He saw how sad Mary and her friends were? (*He was sad, too.*)
7. How many days had Lazarus been dead when they went to see his body? (*four days*)
8. What did Jesus do before He called Lazarus out of the tomb? (*He prayed and thanked God.*)
9. What did Lazarus look like when he came out of the tomb? (*He still had the burial clothes on him—strips of cloth on his face and body.*)
10. What happened when many people saw Jesus bring Lazarus back from death? (*They believed in Jesus!*)

What You Say:

"Lazarus' death was an impossible situation. But nothing—absolutely nothing—is impossible for God. Hearing stories like this can help us remember how powerful God is. It gives us hope for breaking through puzzling situations we face, too. **[Make it Personal]** (*Share an age-appropriate story about a time you faced what felt like an impossible situation. Were you able to see and feel God's presence in your situation? How?*) God's power isn't just for Lazarus and his family. God's power doesn't just help people in the Bible. God's power is for you and me in our lives, too. **[Bottom Line]** **Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is."**

2. Trouble!

Non-Reader Option Highlighted Below

What You Need: Bibles, Colored Card stock Paper (10 sheets per group), Easter egg (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Say, “We’re going to play a game called “Trouble!” to review our Bible Verse. It’s kind of like Musical Chairs. Are you ready?”
- Help kids look up and “read” the memory verse (John 16:33b), or **read the verse to your group.**
- Use the conversation below to unpack the verse.
- Set the card stock place markers in a circle, one for each kid, and guide the kids to sit on them.
- Give one kid the Easter egg.
- Lead kids to quickly pass it around the circle.
- As kids pass the egg, call out the verse word by word. “In . . . this . . . world . . . you . . . will . . . have TROUBLE!”
- When you say, “Trouble,” guide kids to jump up, run to an open spot, and sit down. (Think “Musical Chairs” but without a missing seat.)
- Invite a kid to name a trouble they might have. (*getting sick, losing a toy, having a pet die, or getting in a fight with a friend*)
- After they name a trouble, compassionately say, “Jesus said, ‘Be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.’”
- Continue the game for several rounds. You can heighten anticipation by varying the amount of time you pause before saying, “Trouble!”

What You Say:

“In this verse, Jesus tells us that bad and sad things WILL happen to us. Someone we love might get sick, our friend might get mad at us, or we might have to move to a new school. But Jesus ALSO promises us that He has won the battle! That means that no matter WHAT happens, He is POWERFUL enough to make GOOD come from bad. He can help people get better, He can help us get along with our friends, and He can help us make new friends.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time God worked something seemingly bad in your life into something good, like getting a flat tire let you tell someone about Jesus or moving to a new place helped you make new friends.)

“When we know that Jesus is powerful enough to make good come from bad, we can take heart and be encouraged! We can have HOPE! So ***[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember how powerful God is!***”

3. The Story of Lazarus

What You Need: “The Story of Lazarus” cards (4 sets per group), Bible marked at John 11

What You Do:

- Invite a kid to open the Bible where marked (John 11).
- Let kids talk about what they remember about the story. It doesn’t matter what order!
- You can ask questions to encourage thinking, such as:
 - What happened next?
 - What else happened?
 - How did Mary and Martha feel?
- Prompt kids to raise their hand and wait to be called on before speaking instead of talking over each other.

- Then invite kids to volunteer to be Mary, Martha, Lazarus, the disciples, the villagers, and Jesus. Some kids can even be the tomb!
- Help the kids dramatize the story as you narrate their actions.
- After giving kids a chance to act out the story, help them get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a set of “The Story of Lazarus” pieces.
- Guide the groups to work together to put the story in order.
- When every group is finished, encourage kids to use the pictures to tell the story to each other.

What You Say:

“When Lazarus was sick, Mary and Martha sent for Jesus because they KNEW that He had the power to make their brother well. But when Lazarus died, they were confused and VERY sad. They didn’t understand why Jesus hadn’t come soon enough!

“But Jesus is powerful enough to bring Lazarus back from the dead. By raising Lazarus, Jesus showed Mary, Martha, and everyone how powerful God is! God is powerful enough to make GOOD come from BAD. WOW!

“God is powerful enough to make good come from bad in your life, too. Sometimes it’s really hard to believe that good things can come out of bad things, like when your pet gets lost, someone in your family is sick, or hard things happen. But **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.** Remember that God loves you more than you can imagine. You can trust God, NO MATTER WHAT!”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Say:

“Dear Jesus, thank You for this time when we can come together and learn more about You and what Your power looks like in our lives. Thank You that though there are times we face big, even impossible things in our lives, You give us a reason to have hope! As we head into our week, please help us hang onto the truth we learned today. **[Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**”