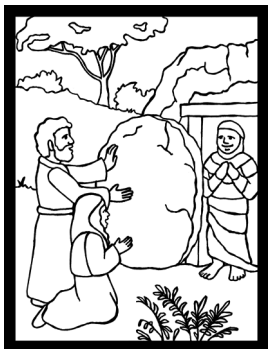
# Lesson B3.4 - Jesus Gives Us Life



## *Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan*

### *For Lower Elementary Students and Classes*

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

### *Quick Facts for the Teacher*

### Lesson Summary: John 11:17-44

▶ Bible Characters: Jesus, Martha, Mary, Lazarus

In today's story, an amazing miracle occurs when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. It is a moment that shows Jesus' true identity, both as a compassionate friend who weeps with the man's sisters, and as the very Son of God who reigns over death itself. Martha and her sister Mary both learn that trusting Jesus is at the very heart of faith.

### Brief Bible Background

▶ Today's Lesson is from the New Testament

▶ Scripture Section: Miracles

Throughout his ministry among the people, Jesus demonstrated the active power of God by performing miracles and signs, such as healing the sick, casting out demons, commanding the elements, and raising the dead to life.

### For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

*Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.*

## a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

## b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands." No accompaniment is needed.

*Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day! (Clap clap)*

*Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day! (Clap clap)*

*Lord, we praise you and we thank you and we're here to learn about you!*

*Lord, we praise you and we thank you for this day! (Clap, clap)*

## c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Set a stuffed animal on a table. Ask, "Does anyone know a way to make this toy come to life?" (Call on volunteers.) No matter how much we'd like that, we can't really do it. Why? We aren't the Author of Life. We're not in charge.

• When I say, **"Jesus gives us life,"** what do you think that might mean?

In a few minutes, we will hear more about our old friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Only this time, both sisters are really sad...until they learn a big lesson: **Jesus gives us life.** What happened to teach them that? Let's find out!

## d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

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## e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading.

Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



### Picture 1

*Tell the children:* Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were some of Jesus' good friends. One day, Lazarus got very sick. They sent for Jesus and waited for him to come to their home. In the meantime, Lazarus kept getting sicker. Finally, Jesus arrived.

*Read the caption:* Martha and Mary were sad. Their brother had died. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, this would not have happened!"

- *Which person in this picture is Martha and which one is Mary? [The one beside Jesus is Martha.]*
- *What is Jesus doing? [He is comforting Martha. He is sad along with the sisters.]*



### Picture 2

*Tell the children:* Jesus looked at Martha and said, "Your brother will live again." Martha was confused. How could this be? "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said. "Everyone who believes in me will live, even though they die."

*Read the caption:* Martha and Mary believed that Jesus was God's Son. They trusted him. They brought him to the tomb where Lazarus was buried.

- *Where is the tomb in this picture? [It's the big stone structure behind the people.]*
- *Does it look like the sisters understand what Jesus is saying? Why or why not? [They are listening to him but still seem upset and maybe a little confused.]*



### Picture 3

*Tell the children:* Jesus was very sad about Lazarus too. He cried, just like Martha and Mary had done. But when they faced the tomb, he told the people there to roll away the stone that was covering the entrance. Martha didn't know what to think.

*Read the caption:* Jesus prayed to God. Then he shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" And sure enough, the dead man came out of the tomb!

- *Why does Lazarus look like that? [He is still wrapped in burial clothes. It was a practice in Bible times to wrap a person like this after they died.]*
- *What do you think is going through Lazarus' mind? [Call on volunteers to answer]*



### Picture 4

*Tell the children:* Jesus knew God would answer his prayers, but he wanted those who were there to believe this too. Lazarus was wrapped in burial cloth, but he was alive and walking!

*Read the caption:* Everyone was amazed! Jesus told them to take the cloths off Lazarus' hands and feet. It was a miracle. Lazarus was alive again!

- *Look at Mary and Martha now. What are they feeling? [Shock, joy, etc.]*
- *If you were in this picture, what would you be thinking? What might you say to Jesus? [Call on volunteers to answer.]*

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## f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*Martha and young Mary cried.*
*Their brother Lazarus had died.*
*When Jesus came and found his friends,*
*he told them this was not the end.*

*"You must believe: I am," said Christ,*
*"the Resurrection and the Life.*
*"I promise: Those who trust in me*
*"will live again eternally."*

*When at the tomb he prayed aloud,*
*he shouted: "Lazarus, come out!"*
*The dead man answered Jesus' call,*
*alive again, before them all."*

## g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. *(Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)*

### *Activity: Flying Butterfly Craft*



***Materials Needed:***

- Round, basket-style coffee filters (2 per child), chenille sticks, fishing line, markers, scissors

***Instructions:***

Historically, butterflies have been used as symbols of new life--very fitting for today's story!

Give each student two coffee filters and some markers. Flatten out both filters and decorate them with markers. Fold each one back and forth, accordion style, making two long, narrow strips. Put one flat strip on top of the other, with folds facing outwards. Take a chenille stick and center it in the middle of the strips. Twist it around, leaving enough of the chenille stick so the ends point upwards. Curve the tops of the sticks down a bit, like butterfly antennae *(see illustration).*

Unfold the coffee filters and shape them like butterfly wings. Tie the fishing line around the head of the butterfly to allow it to be suspended for display. Using removable tape, tape the other end of the fishing line to the doorway or window rim so each one hangs down and decorates the classroom.

## h. Song (optional)

It's traditional to clap along to this upbeat African American spiritual. Kids can also lift their hands up when they get to, "lifted me." The youngest kids could play rhythm instruments as well.

### *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

Refrain: **I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.**
**I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.**
**I'm so glad Jesus lifted me,**
**singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!**

**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.**
**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me.**
**When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me,**
**singin' Glory, Hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!**
[Refrain]

## i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

*Then What Happened* is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

▶ *Start:* **Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was very sick. The sisters sent for their friend, Jesus to come to their home. Then what happened?**

*If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.*

## j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents). End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

*We thank you, Lord, for all you give,*
*For family, friends, the lives we live.*
*Please bless our church, and pastors too,*
*And help us all to trust in you.*
*For those who face hard times and pain,*
*We pray your peace might fall like rain. Amen.*

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