Lesson 4: Confidence

Today's Bible Story

Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus that their brother Lazarus was sick. By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus was already dead.

Martha went out to meet him, saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. Yet even now I know God will do anything you ask."

Jesus told her, "Your brother will live again!" Martha answered, "I know that he will be raised to life on the last day, when all the dead are raised."

Jesus then said, "I am the resurrection and the life! Everyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And those who live again by faith will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes, Lord!" she replied. "I believe that you are Christ, the Son of God."

Mary left the house crying and went to where Jesus was, saying, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus cried with Mary as he went with her to the tomb. He told the people there to roll the stone away from the tomb entrance. But Martha said, "Lord, you know that Lazarus has been dead four days, and there will be a bad smell."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" Then Jesus looked up toward heaven and prayed, "Father, I thank you for answering my prayer. I know you always answer my prayers, but I want the people here to believe that you sent me."

Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" To everyone's surprise, the dead man came out of the tomb! His hands and feet were wrapped with strips of burial cloth. Jesus told them to take the wrappings off: Lazarus was alive again!



From John 11:17-44

Bible Rhyme

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.

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An Important Word in the Bible:

Resurrection

means "to be raised up again"

(from the words re - erect)

Resurrection is when someone is completely dead and buried, and God himself brings them to life again. Only God can do this!

Don't confuse resurrection with these other similar-sounding words:

Doctors, nurses, and emergency responders can sometimes help a person start breathing again, or start their heart pumping after it has stopped.

This is called resuscitation.

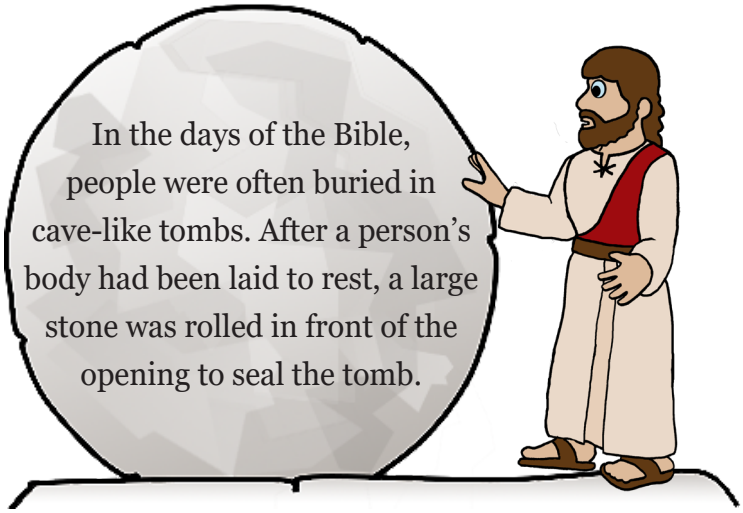
Resurrection is <u>not</u> the same as resuscitation.

Some people falsely believe that human beings live many different lives, and that after they die they will come back in a different body.

This is called reincarnation.

Resurrection is <u>not</u> the same as reincarnation.

Christians do <u>not</u> believe in reincarnation!



Look up what Jesus said about himself in John 11:25 (ESV).

"__ ___ ____

_____

____ ____ _____."

Questions for Discussion

1) **What did Jesus tell his disciples in John 11:14? Why was Jesus glad he was not there? What did he want to show his disciples?**

2) **How do you know that what Jesus did when he raised Lazarus was more than just resuscitation? What proof do you see in the Bible?**

3) **Was Lazarus really dead? What did Martha say to Jesus in John 11:39?**

4) **How do you know Lazarus was not reincarnated? Was Lazarus a different person than he was before, or was he still Lazarus?**

5) **Read: Luke 24:36-42. After Jesus was crucified, he rose from the dead on the third day. How did he prove to his disciples that he was resurrected?**

6) **Read: Hebrews 10:27-28. According to the Bible, do human beings live many lives? On the day that Jesus returns, what will happen to all those who have died?**

7) **What promise from Jesus does the miracle in today's story give to us? How does that promise help us to face our own deaths some day?**

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