

Jesus' connection


Bible verses:

John 11:1-16,33-44
The death of Lazarus


Aim:

To learn that Jesus shared human emotions


Today's fruit:

Gentleness



In our Bible story today we meet a family going through a very difficult time.

When their brother became sick, Mary and Martha sent for their friend Jesus to help them, but it was too late. Lazarus died and Jesus wept with the family as they suffered the loss of their brother. Jesus was able to connect with the emotions of the family and was gentle with them during their pain. Even though he arrived late, he was able to show the power of God through a miraculous event. Lazarus was raised from the dead.

When we connect with others we show a gentleness. It takes this fruit to be sensitive to their emotions.

Each child will need:

- A sheet of A4 paper, scissors and pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A flip chart and pens
- To watch *How to Make a Six-Page Booklet* by TheDrawingMil (2:57) and perhaps make a few booklets in advance
- Today's fruit sign: Gentleness



Start it

Watch the video (below) which has some clips from the film *Inside Out* and discuss the different emotions Riley is experiencing. The emotions are very simplistic, so encourage the children to think of other words to describe how Riley is feeling.

Video

Inside Out: Guessing the feelings by Laiai Garcia based on the film *Inside Out* by PIXAR (3:16)

Timings and emotions

0:05–0:35: Happy

0:35–1:18: Sad

1:18–1:58: Angry

1:58–2:33: Disgusted

2:33–3:16: Scared

Ask:

Do you think Jesus experienced all these emotions? Explain your answer.

Say:

In our story today Jesus shows that he is able to share human emotions and understand how we feel.

Sing it

Say:

In today's story Jesus does an unusual thing to show the power of God. Our song for today reminds us that God is powerful and that we can trust in him, no matter how challenging the situation we face.

Song

'My God is Powerful' featuring music by Stellar VBS Group Publishing by Lifetree Kids (3:35)

Tell it

Say:

In our Bible story today, we meet a family who were suffering. Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus was very sick. They had sent for Jesus to come and help but didn't know if he would make it in time to save their brother. Let's watch the clip to find out what happened.

Video

Jesus Raised Lazarus from Death God's Story by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:24)

Watch: 0:00–0:52 'But Jesus was going to bring him back to life so that people would believe that Jesus really was the Son of God.'

Ask:

- Who were Jesus' three good friends?
- What happened to Lazarus?
- What did Mary and Martha do when they realised how sick Lazarus was?
- What did Jesus do when he found out about Lazarus?

Read:

'When Jesus heard this he said, "This sickness will not end in death. It is for the glory of God. This has happened to bring glory to the Son of God." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. But when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then Jesus said to his followers, "Let us go back to Judea."'

(John 11: 4-7 *ICB*)

Ask:

How do you think Mary and Martha felt when they discovered Jesus was not rushing straight back to help Lazarus?

Say:

When we - or someone we love - is suffering, it can be difficult to understand why God is allowing it to happen. In this story, God had a plan to change the suffering into something amazing. His reaction to Lazarus's illness would show the disciples that Jesus really was the Son of God.

Watch: 0:52-1:54 'Just like us, Jesus felt pain and sadness because of what happened to his friend.'

Ask:

- How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus arrived at the house?
- How did Martha react to Jesus turning up so late? How would you have reacted if you were in Martha's position?

Say:

Jesus was deeply upset when he saw how sad Mary and Martha were.

Read:

'Jesus saw that Mary was crying and that the Jews who came with her were crying, too. Jesus felt very sad in his heart and was deeply troubled. He asked, "Where did you bury him?"'

"Come and see, Lord," they said.

'Jesus cried.

'So the Jews said, "See how much he loved him."

'But some of them said, "If Jesus healed the eyes of the blind man, why didn't he keep Lazarus from dying?"'

(John 11:33-37 *ICB*)

Ask:

- How do you feel about Jesus crying?
- In what way does it help to know that Jesus understands when we feel sad about a difficult situation?

Say:

Jesus understood how Mary and Martha were feeling and shared in their sadness.

Watch: 1:54-3:00 'And that's the story of Lazarus.'

Say:

Jesus cried out to God. Our memory verse reminds us to call out to God knowing he will listen. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

**'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'**

(Psalm 17:6 *ICB*)

Say:

In our story today, we see Jesus doing exactly what the words of Psalm 17:6 call us to do. Jesus cried out to God and Lazarus was brought back to life.

Ask:

- How is Lazarus's story similar to what happened to Jesus on the cross?
- What do you think Jesus wanted to show the people when he brought Lazarus back to life?

Say:

Let's recap the amazing story of Lazarus rising from the dead.

Watch: 3:00-end.

After you have watched the story recap, note down the main events on a flip chart with the children.

Key events (for reference)

1. Jesus' friend Lazarus got sick.
2. Lazarus died and his sisters were really sad.
3. Jesus was sad too.
4. Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.
5. Later Jesus died and was brought back to life.
6. Jesus was able to do all this because he was God's son.



Action it

The children are going to create their own version of the story using the six key points listed in the previous section. But first the children will need to make a six-page booklet. Watch the clip to discover how this is done.

Video

How to Make a Six-Page Booklet by TheDrawingMil (2:57)

Depending on your group, you may like to make some mini booklets prior to the session. The cover of the booklet will have the title *Jesus raises Lazarus* from the dead and the inside six pages will cover the key points of the story. The back page could have a question or a teaser, eg How will Jesus be able to help Lazarus?; Nothing is impossible for the son of God!; Find out what happened when Jesus' friend died.

1. Jesus' friend Lazarus got sick.
2. Lazarus died and his sisters were really sad.
3. Jesus was sad too.
4. Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.
5. Later Jesus himself died and was brought back to life.
6. Jesus was able to do all this because he was God's son.

The children can share their books with each other when they are completed.

Ask the children to take their books home as it links with the *Explore It Ideas*. They can also complete their books at home, if needed.

Pray it

Say:

In today's story we met a family going through a very challenging situation. They were worried about their brother and didn't know whether Jesus would make it in time to help.

Say:

Before anything happens, most importantly, we see Jesus connecting with human suffering. Suffering is one of the biggest questions about Christian faith and there are no simple answers. We never want to simplify this difficult and personal subject; but if you are able to, share any other questions you have today.

Ask:

How did Jesus react when he saw how sad Mary and Martha were?

Say:

Jesus cried with the family and shared their sadness. He was gentle with them and loved them while they were feeling sad. He didn't tell them to cheer up, or stop crying. Instead he cried with them.

Display the *Gentleness* sign.

Ask:

In what ways can we show the gentleness of Jesus when we see people going through difficult times?

Say:

Jesus was able to share his feelings with Mary and Martha.

Ask:

How could we show that we understand how others are feeling?

Ask:

Think of someone who is facing a difficult time just now. How could you show the gentleness of Jesus to them?

Encourage the children to pray for people in their lives who are facing challenging circumstances. An optional music track is provided to use during this time of reflection. When the music finishes, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Listen

'Gentle Like Jesus' by Sovereign Grace Music (4:14)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

Jesus' connection

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

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The death of Lazarus



Aim:

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Today's fruit:

Gentleness



Discover

In our session today we thought about the many different emotions we feel as humans. Watch the clip to discover what the Bible can teach us about our emotions.

Learn Emotions with the Bible (Christian Homeschool) Emotions for Toddlers & Kids Bible Stories by Minno Bible Stories for Kids



Read

This week you created a mini-book of the story of Lazarus. If you didn't have chance in the session, then finish the story and pictures in the mini-book.

Read the story to someone at home and share with them how much Jesus cares when we, or those we love, are suffering.



Song for the week

'My God is Powerful' featuring music by Stellar VBS Group Publishing by Lifetree Kids



Memory verse

'I call to you, God,
and you answer me.
Listen to me now.
Hear what I say.'

(Psalm 17:6 *ICB*)

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Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick
Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her
friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Start it

Today we are going to hear a story that
starts off being really sad but ends with
being ... well, let's find out!

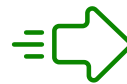


Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of John 11:1-
16,33-44.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share
together:

- When are the times we feel happy or sad?
- How do we feel when loved ones are unwell?
- Are there things which make you scared?
- How was Jesus different from any other person?
- Martha and Mary were sad. I wonder why Jesus cried too?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible
passage:

- Lie down and then spring up - like Lazarus who came back to life.
- Pretend you are caring for somebody sick like Lazarus (bring them a drink, turn their pillows, read them a story.)
- Work in pairs to show gentleness to your partner (put an arm around them, hold their hand, make them smile.)
- Make some pretend flowers to give to an adult you care about.
- Play some happy music and dance a happy dance - Lazarus was dead and now he is alive!