



LESSON 10: JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

CORE BIBLE: JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- balloons (2 per child, plus several extras)
- paper towels
- permanent markers
- scissors
- large box with a lid
- [Double Balloon handout](#)

Easy Prep

First, insert 1 balloon inside another, leaving a little tip sticking out. Inflate the inner balloon about $\frac{3}{4}$ full, and tie it off. Holding on to the tie, fully inflate the outer balloon and then tie it off around the inner balloon's knot. You'll need to make sure there's plenty of space between the inner and outer balloons so you don't pop the inner one later. For pictures of how to do this, see the "Double Balloon" handout.

For each child, inflate 1 balloon and keep 1 deflated. Put all the inflated balloons in a box with a lid, and cut a 2- to 3-inch slit in the lid.

Blow up a single balloon and draw a face on the balloon.

Make a Balloon Friend

There's a problem with your balloon friend. He's sick, just like a guy in the Bible.

John 11:1-3

¹A man named Lazarus was sick. He lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. ²This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair.^[a] Her brother, Lazarus, was sick. ³So the two sisters sent a message to Jesus telling him, "Lord, your dear friend is very sick."

Let a small amount of air out of your balloon.

What can you do to help your balloon? Jesus got the message that Lazarus was very sick, but he didn't go to him right away. Instead, Jesus stayed where he was for two days. And in the meantime, Lazarus got worse and worse.

Release more air from your balloon.

How do you feel watching your balloon friend get worse? You know air would help your balloon friend, but I'm not letting you add more air. How do you feel about that?

Mary and Martha, Lazarus' sisters, knew that Jesus could heal Lazarus, just like air could heal your balloon friend. But Jesus wasn't coming! Where was he? **Why** wasn't he coming? While Jesus hung around where he was, here's what happened to Lazarus.

John 11:11-14.

¹¹ Then he said, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up."

¹² The disciples said, "Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!" ¹³ They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

¹⁴ So he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

Let all the air out of your balloon.

Help Balloon Friends

Finally, now that Lazarus was dead, Jesus arrived. But doesn't it seem like he was too late? How are you feeling about your balloon friend? You might think there's still hope for your balloon. But what if I cut slits in your balloon?

How are you feeling about your balloon friend now? What would you say to Jesus if your balloon friend was Lazarus? That's probably how Mary and Martha felt when Jesus got there. He was too late! They had to bury Lazarus. Wrap your balloon in a paper towel and put them in the slit in the box of balloons.

Mary and Martha were sad. Their brother had died. But Jesus has power over death. Let's see what happened.

John 11:20-24.

²⁰ When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. But Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ "Yes," Martha said, "he will rise when everyone else rises, at the last day."

How would you describe Martha's attitude? Martha knew that Jesus has power over death in the long run. She knew that one day, she'd see Lazarus alive in heaven. But that's not what Jesus meant. Here's what he meant.

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[a] Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

What does it mean to live after dying? Everyone was very sad that Jesus hadn't stopped Lazarus from dying. They knew Jesus had power to heal, but they didn't realize Jesus has power over death. So Jesus asked them to show him Lazarus' tomb, where he was buried.

John 11:39-42.

³⁹ "Roll the stone aside," Jesus told them.

But Martha, the dead man's sister, protested, "Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible."

⁴⁰ Jesus responded, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?" ⁴¹ So they rolled the stone aside. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me."

Before we see what happened to Lazarus, let's see if cutting a balloon really means it's beyond hope. What do you think will happen if the a balloon within balloon is cut with scissors? Cut the balloon near the knot, stretching it to avoid a loud popping sound.

Even though you cut the balloon, there's still an inflated balloon inside. Jesus knew all along that he could bring Lazarus back to life. He knew he has power over death. Just as I knew that I could pop this balloon and still have an inflated balloon, Jesus knew that he could let Lazarus die and bring him back to life. In fact, he waited on **purpose** so his friends could see his power over death.

John 11:43-44

⁴³ Then Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ And the dead man came out, his hands and feet bound in graveclothes, his face wrapped in a headcloth. Jesus told them, "Unwrap him and let him go!"

Open the box of balloons, and toss them out. If you have helium balloons, the balloons will let themselves out of the box! Once all the balloons are out, have kids bat them around to celebrate Lazarus' new life.

Ask for Life

When Jesus was talking to Martha, he said something that helps us understand his power over death. Let's read that again.

John 11:25.

²⁵ Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.^[a] Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

Jesus said he is the resurrection and the life. He said that even though we all die, we can live after that if we believe in him! Let's think about that. Jesus brought Lazarus back to life. But Lazarus isn't still alive on earth

today. Eventually, we don't know when, Lazarus died again. And Jesus brought him back to life in a different way—a way we can all experience! If we believe in Jesus, we can experience his power over death because we'll live forever in heaven! What sounds great about living forever in heaven?

It's like this balloon is our life on earth. One day, it will end. But when it does, that's just our body dying. Our souls—the part of us that really makes us **us**—can live on forever! Jesus has power over death. When we believe in Jesus, we can live with him forever in heaven. What great news!