

Lesson 4 – March 22, 2020

John 11:1-53

Know Right: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

Think Right: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (DL Top 12)

Do Right: I will trust Jesus through the good and bad times in my life.

Feel Right: I can feel hopeful because I trust Jesus.

No matter who you are, you will walk through challenging days. How do you prepare your students for these types of days? Teach them to think about their circumstances through a Biblical worldview using the Four Rights. Prepare for this week by reading the Scripture passage and the lesson plan.

Discover Time: Good and bad!

Goal: To reinforce our need to **trust** Jesus through the good and the bad times in our lives.

Box Station

Supplies:

- Feel Right poster (see appendix)
- 34 boxes (17 for each team)
- Two sets of box signs with “Trust”, “Jesus!”, and faces from the Feel Right poster (print each set on different colored paper) (see appendix)
- Tracker Tickets

Setup instructions: Divide the Box Station into two sections, keeping the two sets of boxes separate.

Instructions for the DT Leader:

1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Review the different types of emotions they have by showing them the Feel Right poster.
3. Tell students that no matter what type of day they have, they can **trust** Jesus! Show the two boxes that together say “Trust Jesus!”
4. Challenge the teams to race to see who can stack their “feelings” boxes to the ceiling first, with the two boxes that say “Trust Jesus” on the top of the stack.
5. The first team to complete the challenge wins.
6. Remind both teams that no matter if their day is good or bad, they can **trust** that Jesus will always be there for them; refer to the top box again.
7. Award the winning team members with two Tracker Tickets each.
8. Repeat the challenge if time allows.

Preparation for the Classroom

Pray: Pray that our students will always return to what they know is right before making decisions based on their feelings. Ask God to quickly bring truth to their mind during all seasons and circumstances throughout their life.

Read: John 11:1-53

Know Right: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead

In addition to His twelve disciples, Jesus was close to two sisters, Martha and Mary, and their brother Lazarus. When Lazarus became ill, the sisters sent word to Jesus. Instead of rushing to the rescue, Jesus deliberately delayed until Lazarus had died. Upon Jesus' arrival, both Martha and Mary expressed their steadfast faith in Him, mixed with the bitter pain of losing their dear brother. Jesus asked to be taken to the place where Lazarus had been buried four days earlier. In what would be the pinnacle of His miracles, Jesus brought His dead friend back to life. From their deepest grief, the sisters were able to experience their greatest joy, and teach us to trust Jesus through good times and bad.

Lead Teacher's Notes:

- Please refer to the Children's Ministry Resource Bible: page 1133 (The Life of Christ); page 1202 (The Life of Jesus); page 1351 (Lesson: The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead).
- This lesson covers a longer passage of Scripture that requires us to both dramatically read and paraphrase some of the text. There will be teacher commentary, questions, and answers in between the verse passages. Teachers should always have their Bibles open during the entire lesson, so students know that the account comes from the Bible. All students should open their Bibles to the Scripture passages noted in the lesson below. Assistance may be required for younger grades and visitors.

Creative Ideas for the Lesson:

1. This is a lesson loaded with feelings: sadness, fear, excitement, anxiousness, happiness, etc. Create an emotion chart on your whiteboard to keep track of the emotions people have as you go through the lesson. You will need to be very familiar with the lesson and have a clear understanding of the emotions involved. Around the edge of your chart, write the words, "I will trust in God - Proverbs 3:5-6."
2. This is a great lesson for a drama in your class! Ask four people, such as the DT Leader, Shepherd, and two parents, in advance to be a part of the lesson. Give them simple costumes, and then have silently act while you read the Scripture, and then freeze while you recap each section.
3. Before class, create a map on your whiteboard of the locations in the lesson. Use 3D people on the board to teach your lesson. Move people around by taping them to the board. Draw arrows and add in key words above the people or locations to emphasize main ideas.

Lesson Introduction for the Classroom

Lead Teachers ~ Connecting the DT to the Lesson:

Life is filled with ups and downs. You can have great days, crummy days, lonely days, and exciting days. How many of you had a good week? A bad week? A sad week? An okay week? No matter what type of day you have, you can trust in Jesus. In today's lesson we'll learn about some people who had many emotions. Listen carefully as we discover how people trusted Jesus in the ups and downs of life.

Note: If your DT was in the Mission Station, remind students that no matter where you are in this world you will have good and bad days. But, no matter what kind of day you have, you can trust in Jesus.

Pray: Encourage one of your students to boldly pray and thank God for all the emotions He gave us.

Find It: Today, we are going to study God's Word in the book of John, chapter 11. John is in the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

Timeline: Where on our timeline can we see Jesus doing ministry here on earth?

Introduction to the Bible Lesson:

Right now, I want you to close your eyes. *Make sure all students have their eyes closed.* Imagine you were alive when Jesus was on this earth. Think about what you would have seen and heard. How would you feel if you had been a Jewish person who saw one of Jesus' miracles, like healing the paralyzed man? How would you feel if you heard, for the very first time, Jesus teach about God and heaven and how He wants to forgive your sins? Do you think you would have believed that Jesus was God's Son? Would you have been one of His followers? We know that many of the Jews didn't believe in Him. They even tried to kill Him. But some Jewish people did believe in Jesus. They totally trusted in Him. Today, we are going to learn about what Jesus did for some of those people who believed in Him.

Scripture Outline for the Classroom

John 11:1-53

Jesus receives the message that Lazarus is sick

Read John 11:1-3

Recap: Where did Lazarus, Martha, and Mary live? (Bethany) Bethany was very near Jerusalem, and some of the Jews in Jerusalem wanted to kill Jesus. How do you think Martha and Mary felt about Lazarus being sick? (Scared, sad, etc.) Listen to what Jesus said when He heard about Lazarus.

Jesus tells the purpose of Lazarus' sickness

Read John 11:4-6

Recap: Jesus already knew exactly what was happening with His dear friend Lazarus before it even happened. What did He say about Lazarus' sickness? (It would not end in death) How did Jesus feel about Martha, Mary, and Lazarus? (Jesus loved them) How many days did Jesus wait before He went to Lazarus? (Two) Why would Jesus do this? Why didn't He hurry to Bethany and help His friend Lazarus get better? Let's keep reading and see if we can figure it out.

Jesus follows His Father's plan

Read John 11:7-16

Recap: Why were the disciples scared about Jesus going to help Lazarus? (Because the Jews in Jerusalem wanted to kill Jesus) Even though this was true, Jesus was not afraid. He knew He had a great plan for Lazarus, even though Lazarus was dead. The disciples went to Bethany with Jesus. Let's see what happened when they got there.

Jesus arrives in Bethany

Read John 11:17-24

Recap: How long had Lazarus been buried in the tomb when Jesus got to Bethany? (Four days) Yikes, that's a long time. During this time, what people had come to Bethany to comfort Martha

and Mary? (Many Jews from Jerusalem) Even though it was a very bad time, did Martha still trust in Jesus? (Yes) What did Jesus tell Martha would happen to her dead brother? (He would rise again or come back to life) Martha thought Jesus was talking about when He will come back again to get everyone who believes in Him and take us to heaven. But that's not what Jesus was talking about. Let's keep reading to see what He meant.

Jesus is eternal life

Read John 11:25-27

Recap: Jesus told Martha two very important truths. First, when we trust in Him to save us from our sin, even when our bodies die, we will be alive again one day. Second, the people who are alive and believe in Jesus when He comes back will go straight to heaven without their bodies dying first!

Lead Teacher's note: also see 1 Corinthians 15

When you have bad times in your life, will you remember to trust God and have hope?

Jesus wants to see Mary

Paraphrase of John 11:28-37:

Jesus sent Martha to get Mary. When she came to Jesus, she was crying and told Him that Lazarus wouldn't have died if He had been there. When Jesus saw Mary, and the many others who were with her, all so upset, He was sad. They went to Lazarus' tomb. Jesus was so sad He cried.

Jesus raises Lazarus

Read John 11:38-44

Recap: Wow! Isn't that amazing? Lazarus had been buried in the tomb for four days, and Jesus brought him back to life! Can you imagine how happy and excited Martha, Mary, and Lazarus must have felt? Jesus really loved them. Do you realize that Jesus, the same Jesus who loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus, loves you, too?

Some believe, but others still don't

Paraphrase of John 11:45-53:

Many of the Jews from Jerusalem had seen Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead and they believed in Him. But, some of them *still* didn't believe! Instead, they went back to Jerusalem and told the Jewish leaders what had happened. The Jewish leaders made a plan to kill Jesus. They even wanted to kill Lazarus! (*John 12:10*)

Conclusion:

Martha and Mary are great examples to us on the importance of trusting in Jesus. Jesus showed His awesome power to everyone who was there when He raised Lazarus after he was dead in the tomb for four days!

Do Right and Feel Right:

What about you? Think about the good and the bad times in your life. Do you trust in Jesus through both the good and the bad times? I'm sure many of you are walking through some hard times right now. Maybe you don't have a good friend at school, your parents might be fighting, or someone you love is sick. Let's stop and pray that God will help you during this time. *Give students time to quietly reflect and pray.*

But what if you've never trusted in Jesus to save you from your sin? Who are you going to count on in the bad times and the good times in your life? Jesus is the only one who will always be there for you. When you trust in Jesus, He is

your Good Shepherd. Would you like to ask Him to forgive your sin and make Him the leader of your life today?
Opportunity to share the Gospel through the Wordless Book or the Believe It or Not booklet.

Review Questions: What did you discover today?

1. When Jesus was told Lazarus was sick, how long did He wait to go to Lazarus? (Two days)
2. What had already happened to Lazarus before Jesus went to him? (He had died)
3. How did Jesus feel about Martha, Mary, and Lazarus? (He loved them)
4. Even though this was a bad time for Martha and Mary, what did they do? (They trusted in Jesus)
5. How long was Lazarus in the tomb when Jesus got there? (Four days)
6. What did Jesus do as soon as He got to the tomb? (He raised Lazarus from the dead)
7. Name some bad times in your life. Do you trust in Jesus no matter what?
8. When you've trusted in Jesus as your Savior, do you feel hope because you know Jesus loves you and you will live again forever, even when you die?