



LET HIM BE KNOWN

Raising Lazarus from the Dead

WEEK 7

WARM-UP

- What was the longest time you had to wait for something? What did you do while you were waiting?
- Have you ever lost an item you really liked? What did you do when you lost it?
- What is something you've always wanted to do since you were a kid? Tell us about it.

WORD *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live . . ."*

JOHN 11:25

(Read also **JOHN 11.**)

Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is one of the many miracles He did. It deals with one of life's most devastating events—death. The pain and hopelessness brought by death is a problem that everyone faces. Death causes fear and pain, and it is something we do not have control over. In this passage, Jesus does the impossible by raising someone back to life. In the story of Lazarus, we see how Jesus overcomes death and brings hope.

1 | Lazarus was dead.

¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. . . ." ¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **JOHN 11:14, 17**

Lazarus had already died before Jesus went to their place. But when Mary sought Jesus, He did not bring Lazarus back to life right away—He wanted to be with the people first. When He saw Mary, and the Jews who were with her weeping, Jesus was *deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled* (John 11:33). The pain of losing a loved one was real, but Jesus' comfort was just as genuine. How did Jesus show His compassion while the people were mourning (John 11:35)?

2 | Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.

⁴³When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

JOHN 11:43-44

Jesus did not just raise Lazarus back to life as soon as he had been pronounced dead. He waited four days to do this. The Jews believed that it was impossible to raise someone back to life after four days of being in the tomb. However, Jesus was able to do the impossible—He brought Lazarus back to life. By a word from Jesus, "*Lazarus, come out,*" Lazarus was resurrected. Jesus unbound Lazarus from the tomb and gave him life. In this passage, we see God's glory—His victory over hopelessness and death—displayed. Why do you think Jesus brought Lazarus back to life this way?

3 | Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live . . ." **JOHN 11:25**

When Lazarus was resurrected from the dead, the people who saw him were amazed. Through this miracle, the truth was revealed: eternal life is found in Jesus alone. Though everyone faces the reality of physical death, through faith in Jesus, we do not need to fear death. Those who have put their faith in Christ will be resurrected and will live forever in God's presence. It is also through this miracle that Jesus brings hope, no matter how difficult or impossible the situation. Only He is able and has the authority to speak life to the areas of our lives that have run dry and may even be dead. How does the truth of the resurrection affect how you live and trust God?

In the seventh sign, Jesus reveals Himself as the only living hope amidst fear, pain, and death. The promise of eternal life and hope brought by Jesus remains true for us today. Together, even as we face the reality of death, let's trust Jesus to give us life for all eternity. Let us also believe that God can resurrect the areas in our lives that have run dry.

APPLICATION

- Even if we will eventually die, we can experience God's peace and power over death if we believe in Him. How do you think the truth of the resurrection should affect your life today?
- Are there situations in your life that seem hopeless or dead? Ask God to do the impossible and give you new life that only comes from Him.
- Think of someone who has yet to receive the life that is found in Jesus. How can you be a witness of Jesus' hope and light to him or her this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God that nothing is impossible with Jesus. Pray that God gives you an expectant heart despite difficult or seemingly impossible situations.
- Ask God for grace to live in light of the hope Jesus brings. Pray that He would give you peace and joy amidst uncertainty and fear.
- Ask God for opportunities to share the life of Jesus with others. Pray for the boldness to speak life to those who need encouragement this week.

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