

March 15

Jesus Wants Us to Know He is Caring



Core Truth: Jesus Wants Us to Know Him

Why does this matter: Having a personal relationship with Jesus is the foundation of our faith. Knowing Him means we will love Him more.

Text: John 11:1-44

Lightbulb: Jesus Wants Us to Know He is Caring

STORY:

Jesus cares about us a ton and that is what we are going to talk about today. He cares for you so much! It's one of the reasons He wants you to know Him!

We are going to be in John, chapter 11 today. Let's watch this video to learn more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSxXCmM>

Wow, how cool was that!? Mary and Martha thought Jesus wasn't all that caring! Which I think is fair, don't you?

But little did they know that Jesus would show that He cared so much that He would raise their brother from the dead!

In verse 25-27: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will have life even if he dies. And he who lives and believes in me will never die. Martha, do you believe this?"*

Martha answered, "Yes, Lord. I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God. You are the One who was coming to the world."

Would you expect that response from someone you know that is super caring and loving? For them to not come to your rescue? Then Jesus asked her something....he asked her if she believed this....he who lives and believes in me will never die. Then Jesus went on and raised Lazarus from the dead. WOWZA!

This story contains the shortest verse in all of the Bible. Do you know what that verse is? It only has two words: "Jesus cried."

Jesus cried because He cared about the people around Him who were so sad that Lazarus had died.

Jesus cried because He cares for us. He may not do something this miraculous in your life, but He did something even greater for all of us: He gave us eternal life by living the life we could not live and dying the death we should have died!

This brings us to our lightbulb.

Jesus Wants us to Know that He is Caring.

Sometimes it is hard to know that someone cares for you. Just like Jesus cared for Mary and Martha and Lazarus, but He still let Lazarus die before He brought him back.

This week we want you to go home and ask your parents how to know when someone cares for you. This will help you understand that when your parents tell you not to run in the street, they are caring for your safety, not trying to stop you from having fun. But knowing how to recognize care will help you know Jesus is caring but also help you to be caring like Jesus!

ACTIVITY: “Lazarus and God’s Timing” (This is a skit to do together)

Supplies: 2 rolls of toilet paper or bedsheet or towels.

Choose someone to be Lazarus. Have everyone wrap Lazarus with a roll of toilet paper until the whole roll is gone. (Or a bedsheet or towel if you’d like to conserve your TP.)

Choose someone else to be Jesus, send them out of the room.

In the Bible days when someone died, they wrapped them in cloths and often put them in caves instead of burying them. As a family, you wrapped Lazarus in cloths.

Once the family members completely wrapped him or her, have them lay down on the couch or sit in a chair.

Lazarus and Jesus were good friends. Jesus was out of town when Lazarus died. Someone was sent to ask Jesus to come back, but He needed to finish what He was doing. Between the time He arrived back to town, Lazarus had died. When Jesus returns, He finds Lazarus is already dead. Everyone is sad and crying because they miss their friend and brother Lazarus. Even Jesus was sad and cried. Then He did something no one expected. Everyone expected Jesus to come back in time to heal Lazarus so he wouldn’t die. When He didn’t make it back in time, everyone thought it was too late. Then Jesus stood in front of the cave and asked that the rock be moved. Martha questioned Him because Lazarus was dead for several days. Then Jesus yelled into the cave, “Lazarus come forth.”

Have Jesus yell to Lazarus on the couch.

The Bible says that Lazarus came right on out of the tomb! He was not dead anymore! Jesus brought him back to life. Lazarus was alive!

Have Lazarus get up off the couch and hop around the room.

That was a miracle!

Discussion:

- What happened to Lazarus early in our story? (He got sick and died.)
- How did Jesus respond when He found out His friend Lazarus was sick? (*He stayed in the town He had been in for an extra two days.*)
- How long had Lazarus been dead when Jesus came to his grave? (*4 days.*)
- Who was upset that Lazarus had died? (*His friends, family and even Jesus.*)
- What did Jesus tell Lazarus to do? (*Come out of the grave.*)
- Why do you think Jesus waited until Lazarus was dead to come to meet with Mary and Martha? (*He wanted to show people that He was who He said He was.*)

Real-Life Application

Parents, please take some time to talk with your kiddos about ways that we can recognize when someone cares for us. Maybe share some hard decisions your family has had to make because you care about them.