

**Sunday 29 March 2020**  
**For Children**

**Prayer:**

When we're together:

**Lord Jesus, meet with us.**

When we're well...

**Lord Jesus, meet with us.**

When we're ill, or afraid, or sad...

**Lord Jesus, meet with us.**

In all times and seasons...

**Lord Jesus, meet with us.**

**Amen.**

Discuss how it feels when you unwrap a present you have received. How would you feel if there was nothing inside? This Bible passage is about when a family felt let down because Jesus was missing at an important moment.

**Bible Reading: John 11:1-44**

Lazarus lived in Bethany with his sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, Lazarus became ill. Although Jesus was their good friend, and he received a message to say that Lazarus was very ill, he delayed visiting, and stayed where he was. The last time he had been to Judea, people had tried to stone him!



After two days, Jesus said, 'Lazarus has fallen asleep. I'm going to wake him.'

His disciples were confused. 'Why go to such a dangerous place just to wake him up? He'll wake up without you.'

So Jesus spelt it out. 'Lazarus is dead. I didn't go when he was ill, because through him, many will see God's glory.' Hearing this, Thomas said to the others, 'Let's follow him. If he's going to be stoned, we should die with him.'

Lazarus' sister Martha came out to meet Jesus.

She said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

Jesus said, 'Your brother will rise again.'

'I know,' answered Martha, 'at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live and never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' said Martha, 'I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God.'

Then Martha's sister Mary ran out to meet Jesus. She knelt at his feet crying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' Jesus wept with Mary.

He asked, 'Where is his tomb?' A crowd of mourners followed Jesus to the cave where Lazarus' body had been laid.

Lazarus had been dead for four days, but Jesus asked for the stone to be rolled away. Jesus prayed aloud, so the crowd would hear him and know that God had sent him.

Then he shouted into the cave, 'Lazarus, come out!'  
Incredibly, Lazarus walked out of the tomb, wrapped in burial cloths.  
Jesus said, 'Unwrap him and let him go.'

And many people who saw this believed in Jesus.

### **Talk Together**

- How were Martha and Mary feeling because Jesus hadn't come to be with them?
- Have you ever felt let down by a friend?
- What might help us to know that Jesus is with us even when we feel sad?

### **Show God's love**

Design a card for someone in need

**You will need:** *ready-folded cards and envelopes, decorations, stickers, pencils, crayons/felt tips.*

- Invite each child to make a card to send to someone who is ill or sad.
- They can draw and decorate their card as desired.
- Encourage everyone to write in their card, 'Jesus is with you', and sign it.
- Arrange to send or take the cards to friends or neighbours

### **Jesus: man and God**

Consider the human and divine aspects of Jesus

**You will need:** *a large sheet of plain paper, pencils/pens.*

- Fold the paper in half vertically. Label one side 'Jesus is like us' and the other side 'Jesus is God's Son'.
- Ask the children in what ways Jesus was a human being, just like us. They can be general points, e.g. eating, sleeping, but also from today's story, e.g. crying. Encourage them to write or draw their ideas on the 'Jesus is like us' side of the paper.
- Ask the children what special things Jesus did as God's Son, e.g. healing people. Encourage them to write or draw their ideas on the 'Jesus is God's Son' side of the paper.
- Emphasise that while Jesus was an ordinary human being, he also had the power and wisdom of God.

### **Prayer:**

Lord, when it is hard to believe you are there,  
*Jesus, help me.*

When you feel a long way away...

*Jesus, help me.*

When we are ill or in trouble...

*Jesus, help me.*

When I feel sad...

*Jesus, help me.*

When I feel alone...

*Jesus, help me.*

Thank you, Jesus, that we can believe in you,  
and trust you when life is difficult.

**Amen.**