

**Sunday 29 March 2020
For Older Children**

Bible reading John 11:1-44

Allocate roles to different members of the family (some people may have more than one). Remind everyone to think about how those characters might have felt and display some of their emotions. You can also just read from the bible if you prefer.

Narrator: Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

Jesus: This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

Narrator: Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.

Jesus: (talking to His disciples) Let us go to Judea again.

Disciple: Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone You, and are You going there again?

Jesus: Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep.

Disciple: Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.

Narrator: Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.

Jesus: Lazarus is dead, and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."

Thomas: (to his fellow disciples) Let us also go, so that we may die with Him.

Narrator: So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.

Martha: (to Jesus) Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.

Jesus: Your brother will rise again.

Martha: I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha: Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.

Narrator: When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him.

Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying,

Mary: Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

Narrator: When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled.

Jesus: Where have you laid him?"

Mary & Martha: Lord, come and see.

Narrator: Jesus wept.

Some Jews: See how He loved him!

Other Jews: Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?

Narrator: So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

Jesus: Remove the stone.

Martha: Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days.

Jesus: Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?

Narrator: So they removed the stone.

Jesus: (raising His eyes) Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.

(with a loud voice) Lazarus, come forth.

Narrator: The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth.

Jesus: Unbind him, and let him go.

Narrator: Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the

Questions to discuss

- How might Martha and Mary have been feeling towards Jesus when he finally arrived?
- Why didn't Jesus rush to Bethany?
- When have you felt let down by Jesus or doubted his presence with you?

Where is Jesus?

Think about the current situation with the coronavirus worldwide. Get the children and even adults to draw something about the current situation and ask them where they think Jesus might be in this time? Encourage everyone to write words and pictures. (E.g. We see Jesus in people who are helping others etc..)

Rock reminders

Allow each young person to choose a stone as a physical reminder that God is our rock, our ever-present help in times of trouble. Invite everyone to paint their rock and keep it as a reminder that God is there with us, present when things go wrong. They could even keep it in their pocket or school bag to touch when they feel let down, and need to know God is there with them.

Reflection



'Who/what do you call upon when things go wrong?'

- Who/what do you call upon when things go wrong?
- When things go wrong, how is Jesus present for you?
- ...and when things are going well?