

EQUIP Leader Lesson Outline June 14, 2020

Kids Activity: Make sure to have an expo marker for the kid's activity.

Introduction

SHARE: Share a time when you or someone you know became terribly sick. Who was there? Were you scared? If the sickness was cured, would you change the way you acted/felt in hindsight?

QUESTION: Let's say that you have a problem only Jesus can fix. Now, imagine that you physically went to Jesus and told him about your problem. After listening, let's say he decided not to fix your problem. How would that make you feel?

SAY THIS: Mary and Martha were in a similar situation. Our Big Idea for this lesson is: **Jesus has power over death.** Our Key Verse is: **I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.** (John 11:25-26).

Scripture

SAY THIS: In today's passage, Jesus resurrects Lazarus. Now, Jesus was about one day's travel away from Bethany (where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were at). When Lazarus became deathly sick, Mary and Martha sent a messenger to tell Jesus of the situation in hopes that he would come heal him. You see, they were close family friends of Jesus; he and his disciples had even spent time in their house before (Luke 10:38-42). Plus, Mary and Martha had seen Jesus perform many healings, and so they believed he had the power to heal Lazarus. The problem is, Jesus purposefully waited two days before he traveled. By the time Jesus got to his friends, Lazarus had already died from his sickness. Why on earth would Jesus choose not to arrive earlier to heal Lazarus?

READ: Pick three family members to read the following passage: John 11:1-16, 17-37, and 38-44.

PRAY: Lead your family in a short time of prayer

Truth

SAY THIS: Up to this point in Jesus' ministry, he had performed countless healing miracles. These miracles helped back up the claim that Jesus was God. However, Jesus had not yet raised a dead person back to life. If there was any question Jesus was God, his resurrection power would completely authenticate and prove beyond doubt that Jesus was indeed God, and God would be glorified. But in order to resurrect a person, he would have to allow a person to die. This is why Jesus waited a couple of days before traveling. In a similar way, God may allow you to go through challenges and obstacles so that his glory will be made known

QUESTION: What kind of faith did Martha have when she confronted Jesus in verses 21-27? (She believed Jesus was powerful enough to raise a dead man--even though he had never raised a dead man before--because she believed Jesus was God).

SAY THIS: When Jesus met with Mary and the Jews and he saw how broken-hearted they were, he was “deeply moved.” In fact, in verse 35 John records that “Jesus wept.” Jesus cried with Mary, Martha, and the Jews. It’s it amazing that Jesus cried over Lazarus, even though he knew Lazarus would be raised moments later? Why would he do this? Doesn’t it seem like wasteful tears? Not to Jesus. Jesus shows that even though he knows the past and future, God will choose to be present with us in order to love us, care for us, relate to us, and be compassionate for us.

QUESTION: How does Jesus empathize with his friends, and how does this indicate how Christians ought to act towards others who are hurting? (Jesus cries with his friends. He doesn’t tell them they will be ok, he doesn’t tell them they are weak in faith, and he doesn’t tell them they are responding incorrectly. Jesus gives a good rule of thumb for how Christians should respond to hurting people: Be with them. Cry with them. Be compassionate for them.)

SAY THIS: Jesus commands for Lazarus to come out of the grave, and out from the grave Lazarus walks! Jesus did this miracle for the benefit of the people, so that they would believe Jesus was sent by God and that Jesus was God. Since Jesus showed he has the power to physically raise a person from death to life, he proves he must also have the power to spiritually raise a person from death to life! By the power of Jesus, we can leave our dead and sinful life, and rise in our new and redeemed life! **I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.** (John 11:25-26).

Reflection

SAY THIS: Sometimes it can feel like God has chosen to let us deal with our problem alone. But, we must remember that God will purposefully let people go through challenges so that his glory will be made known. And do not worry, because even in these challenges God is still with us, even crying when we cry. Still, do not be afraid to ask God for what you need. Present your requests to God with faith that he can solve any problem, break any chain, or heal any sickness.

QUESTION: What kind of faith should Christians have in light of this story? (That Jesus has the power to do anything! But even if he chooses not to take away our burden, we can still trust that God is with us and that he is using our problem for his glory.)

CHALLENGE: Challenge your family members to seek out their friends when they are going through a difficult time and care for them by being with them, giving a kind word, and crying with them. Also, challenge your family members to bring their concerns to God, for he can solve any problem!

End

SAY THIS: Remember that our Big Idea for this lesson is: **Jesus has power over death.** Our Key Verse is: **I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.** (John 11:25-26).

PRAY: Close out the lesson with prayer.