

**Bible Story:** John 11: 1-45

**Questions to ask:**

Who has died at the beginning of the story?

Where was Jesus when Lazarus died?

What did Mary say to Jesus when he arrived?

Tell us about Jesus' prayer before he raised Lazarus.

I wonder what the people thought when Lazarus came out of the tomb?

**Why is this important?**

Kids will hear this story very literally: they will understand that Lazarus died, his sisters were sad, Jesus took his time getting there, Jesus was sad, and Lazarus came back to life. Above all, kids can find meaning in the fact that Jesus displayed his very human feelings and cried. He was concerned about—and offered comfort to—Martha and Mary. But then, too, he showed that he was more than just their friend; he is the very source of resurrection and life—for them, and for us.

Some kids in your class may have lost family members, while others may never have experienced loss of any kind. Sharing helps kids process loss, so encourage them to talk as they feel comfortable. Include loss of pets and other sad situations. Talk about comfort and hope, and be prepared to do lots of listening.

**Interactive lesson:**

Print or pull up the pdf on your phone or computer screen.

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAD3f5ByRgc/x2W80Y5Lu2LanCTguCb3lg/view?utm\\_content=DAD3f5ByRgc&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=publishsharelink](https://www.canva.com/design/DAD3f5ByRgc/x2W80Y5Lu2LanCTguCb3lg/view?utm_content=DAD3f5ByRgc&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink)

This is a labyrinth. Although it looks like a maze, a labyrinth is a prayer tool. People enter the labyrinth, praying along the way and at the center. Then people leave the labyrinth to go back to their daily lives. We'll use the labyrinth to move us from grief to hope

Follow it all the way from grief to hope with your finger, stopping to complete the activities along the way! Jesus showed us that when we experience grief, there is still hope. Prayer, singing, and being with friends are all ways to find hope again. Believing in Jesus means believing in hope.

**Art idea:**

- Colour a picture of Jesus and add a simple sad face. Write "Jesus Cares When I Am Sad".

- Make cards for people who are sick or are facing a struggle of some sort. Guide the children in being sensitive in their comments. Perhaps a simple sentence like “Jesus Loves You” would be appropriate