**Jesus and Lazarus**

**A Bible Story From**

**John 11:1-46**

**Bible Story Number: 2010390**

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**Jesus and Lazarus**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This event shows both Jesus’ human side and his divine power. He wept over the death of his friend Lazarus and had compassion for the people involved. Yet, he raised a dead man back to life.

Bethany, the hometown of Lazarus and his sisters, is about two miles from Jerusalem. It is in Judea.

**Story from the Bible**

**John 11:1-46**

This is what the Bible says.

Lazarus was very sick. He was at home in Bethany. Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus so he would come and heal him. The message they sent was simple: “The one you love is sick.” Jesus did love this family (Mary, Martha and Lazarus).

When Jesus heard about Lazarus, he told his disciples that this sickness would not end in death, but that it would be for God’s glory. However, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then Jesus told his disciples, “Let’s go to Judea again.”

The disciples objected and reminded Jesus that the Jewish religious leaders had tried to stone him there. Understanding the risk, they asked Jesus if he was really going there again.

Jesus answered them with a question: “Aren’t there twelve hours of daylight in a day?” He answered the question himself. He said that anyone who walks during the day doesn’t stumble because he has plenty of light to see. He continued and told them that if a person walks around during the night, he does stumble because he doesn’t have the light.

Then he told them Lazarus had fallen asleep but he was going to wake him up.

The disciples did not understand that Jesus was telling them that Lazarus had died. So they responded, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well.” Jesus then plainly said that Lazarus had died. He went on to say that he was glad for them that he was not there so they could see and believe. Jesus said, “Let’s go to him.”

Thomas said to the other disciples, “Let’s go so we can all die with him.”

When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was not far from Jerusalem and many of the Jews (including some of the Jewish religious leaders) had come to visit Mary and Martha because their brother had died.

As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him. Martha said to Jesus: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

Jesus said, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.” Jesus said that everyone who lives and believes in him will never die, not ever. Then he asked Martha if she believed what he was saying.

She said she did. She said, “I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world.” After she said this she went back and found her sister Mary. Privately she told her that the teacher (Jesus) was there and he was calling her.

As soon as Mary heard, she got up and went to where Jesus was. He had not entered Bethany but was still in the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were there with Mary to console her followed her. They assumed that she was going out to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary arrived where Jesus was, she bowed at his feet. She said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!”

When Jesus saw her crying and the others with her also crying, he was angry in his spirit and deeply moved. He asked them where they had put him. They said, “Lord, come and we will show you.” And Jesus wept.

So the Jews, seeing him weep said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Couldn’t he who opened the blind man’s eyes also have kept this man from dying?”

When Jesus arrived at the tomb, he was angry in himself. It was a cave tomb and had a stone covering the entrance. Jesus told them to remove the stone.

Martha said that it had already been four days and the body would have begun to decay.

Jesus reminded Martha, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?”

So they removed the stone. Then Jesus looked up and prayed out loud. He prayed, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I am doing this because of the crowd standing here. I am doing this so they may believe that you sent me.”

Then he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” Lazarus came out with his hands and feet wrapped with linen strips and with his face still covered with a cloth. Jesus told them to unwrap him and let him go.

Many of the Jews who were there believed in Jesus as the Messiah because of what they saw that day. But some of them went to the Pharisees and reported what Jesus had done.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus that their brother was sick. What did they expect Jesus would do?
* Why do you think Jesus delayed going to Bethany (where Lazarus was)?
* When Jesus did decide to go, what was the objection raised by the disciples?
* What remark did Thomas make and why do you think he made it?
* How long had Lazarus been in the grave (tomb) when Jesus arrived?
* How did Martha and Mary express their disappointment that their brother had died and was not healed by Jesus?
* How did Jesus respond to Martha and Mary when they said that their brother would not have died if Jesus had been there?
* Did Martha and Mary have faith in Jesus?
* Why did Jesus weep?
* What did Jesus do when he arrived at the tomb? (He had them move the stone. He prayed out loud so others could hear. He called to Lazarus and told him to come out.)
* How did the Jews that witnessed this miracle respond? (Some believed and others went and reported to the Pharisees)
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.