

Church of God Sunday School

THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS

John 11:1-54

There was once a man named Lazarus who lived in the town of Bethany (*BETH-uh-nee*) with his sisters, Mary and Martha. Lazarus became very sick—sick enough to die. Mary and Martha sent word for Jesus to come: "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick."

When Jesus heard of Lazarus' illness, instead of leaving right away, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby."

Jesus stayed in the place where He was for two more days, even though He knew Lazarus was very sick. After those two days had passed, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judaea [*joo-DEE-uh*] again."

The disciples reminded Jesus that the Jews had recently tried to stone Him to death. They wondered why Jesus would go back to Judea.

Jesus said to them: "Are there not twelve hours in the day?" Jesus knew that He did not have much time left to do the work of His Father. He must be about His "Father's business" (Luke 2:49). A call for help had come, and He must answer.

Then Jesus said something very puzzling to His disciples: "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep."

The disciples could not understand what Jesus meant. They thought Lazarus was just resting in sleep. They said, "Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well." So Jesus told them plainly that Lazarus was dead and that He was glad for their sakes that He had not been there. Why would Jesus say that? So that the disciples would believe when He resurrected Lazarus.

When Jesus and His disciples arrived at Bethany, they were told that Lazarus had been in his grave for

four days. They saw that many of the Jews had come from Jerusalem to Bethany to comfort Mary and Martha as they mourned for their brother.

As soon as Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet Him, but Mary sat still, waiting in the house.

When Martha reached Jesus, she said to Him that if He "would have been here, my brother would not have died." But Martha also said, "I know, that . . . whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee."

Jesus looked at her and said, "Thy brother shall rise again."

"I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day," said Martha. She thought that Jesus was speaking of the general resurrection at the end of the world.

Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth

and believeth in me shall never die." Then Jesus asked Martha a question: "Believest thou this?" Martha answered Jesus by saying that she believed that He was "the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

Martha went and called Mary secretly and told her that Jesus had asked for her. Mary got up in a hurry to go to Jesus. All the Jews that were with her in the house went along too, because they thought she was going to the grave to mourn (to show grief by weeping).

When Mary came to Jesus, she fell at His feet and said, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had



not died." When Jesus saw Mary and the Jews crying, He groaned in His spirit and was troubled. He asked where Lazarus had been laid; then He began to weep. (Why do you suppose Jesus wept if He could work a miracle and raise Lazarus?)

The Jews said: "Behold how he loved him! . . . Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?"

Jesus groaned in Himself again and came to the grave, which was a cave with a stone covering. Jesus said, "Take ye away the stone." Immediately, Martha was alarmed. She said, "Lord, by this time he stinketh for he hath been dead four days."

Jesus said to her, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"

When the stone was removed, Jesus prayed and thanked the Father for hearing Him. God always heard Him, but He prayed that way for the people's benefit.

He wanted them to really believe that God had sent Him. Then He called out loudly, "Lazarus, come forth."

Everyone was waiting to see what would happen. And what did happen? Lazarus came forth, all bound up in his grave clothes! His face was all covered up, and he could not walk very well since he was all wrapped up. So Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go," or in other words, "Help him to get free of those grave clothes!"

Many of the Jews believed on Jesus because of this miracle. However, other Jews went to the Pharisees, men who wanted to put Jesus to death because they feared His influence among the people.

From that time on, the chief priests and the Pharisees became serious about wanting to kill Jesus. Because of that, Jesus did not go about openly among the Jews anymore. Jesus and His disciples went into another country and came to a city called Ephraim (*EE-free-uhm*), and there they stayed for a while.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."*

*—John 11:25*  
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**What
Did
Jesus
Say
About
Lazarus'
Sickness?**

"This _____ is not
unto death, but for the
_____ of God,
that the _____ of God
might be _____
thereby."

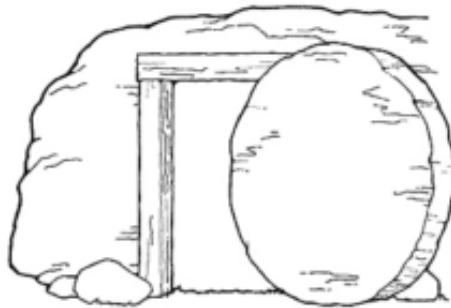
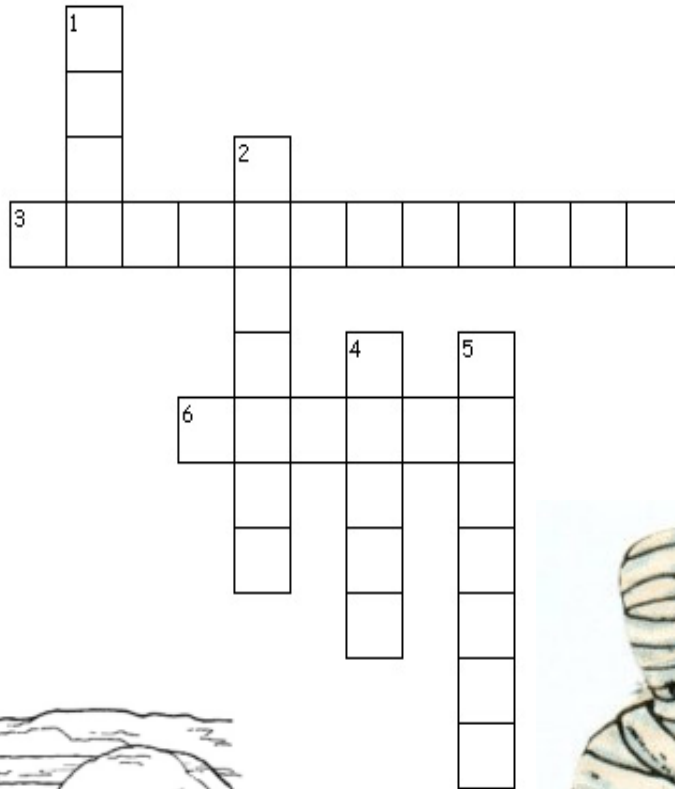
John 11:4



"Lazarus, Come Forth"

**Use These Words
in the Puzzle:**

**Lazarus
Martha
four
stone
grave clothes
Bethany**



Across

3. Lazarus was wrapped in these: _____
6. The sister of Lazarus and Mary was _____.

Down

1. Number of days Lazarus was dead: _____
2. Lazarus lived in _____.
4. A _____ covered the cave.
5. Jesus said, " _____, Come forth."