



Lesson 6: “An Invitation to Life with God, Now and Forever”

3-5 Crew Club Plan

<u>Key Teaching Point</u>	I’m invited to receive life forever with Jesus.
<u>Bible Verse</u>	“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” (1 John 5:11, NLT)
<u>Bible Passage</u>	“Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead” (John 11:1-44, NLT).
<u>Materials</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A Bible● A coin or a dollar bill● A tube of medical ointment● A family photo● Four rolls of toilet paper

Relate (20 minutes)

Welcome students with a snack.

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Have children take turns sharing how they’re feeling today using the “How Are You Feeling?” chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

- Open a discussion with a question, “What is the craziest thing you’ve ever seen with your own two eyes?”

Play a game.

Lazarus Tomb Wrap

Divide the students into two teams. Decide who is Lazarus for each team. Give each team two rolls of toilet paper. On the signal “GO,” each team starts wrapping Lazarus with the paper. When they are finished, ask the teams to shout, “Lazarus, Come out!” After Lazarus is wrapped and the team shouts, Lazarus should quickly unwrap himself while the team rolls the paper back up again as best as they can. When Lazarus is finished, he should shout: “Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life.” The first team whose Lazarus yells this is the winner! If you have enough toilet paper you may play another round. Then, challenge the students to see which team can be the first to throw all the remaining pieces of toilet paper in the trash.

Today we are going to hear a true story from the Bible about a man named Lazarus who died and was wrapped in grave clothes and buried in a tomb only to come back to life again when Jesus arrived on the scene and called him to come out of the tomb!



Receive (20 minutes)

Read God’s Word.

In today’s true story from the Bible, Jesus does one of his most amazing miracles! This is the story of Lazarus. I’m going to give you prompts to which you will respond when I cue you. The prompts in this story are all word cues. Here are the prompts, along with the responses that go with them.

- Sick: Sniffle
- Die/Died: Cry
- Sleep: Snore
- Wake him up: “Wake Up”
- God glorified: Cheer
- Oh My!: Oh My!-Girls only
- Gasp(ed): Gasp-Boys only

This is the story about a man whom Jesus loved. His name was Lazarus.

He lived in Bethany, a town near Jerusalem, with his sisters, Martha and Mary. One day he became sick. (Sniffle) Very sick. (Sniffle louder) Very, very, sick! (Sniffle LOUDER.)

So Martha and Mary sent word to their friend Jesus. When Jesus heard this he said, “He will not die.” (Cry) “This has happened so God will be

glorified.”

But Jesus did not go to Lazarus. Instead, he waited two days. Only then did he finally say, “Let’s go visit Lazarus.”

The disciples were greatly troubled about this because they feared for Jesus’ safety because the people in that town wanted to kill Jesus. But Jesus assured them: “Lazarus has fallen asleep (snore) and I am going to wake him.” (WAKE UP!)

The disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps (snore) then he will get better.”

Jesus told them plainly. “Lazarus has died. (Cry) For your sakes, I am glad I was not there. Now you will see God glorified.” (Cheer)

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, many people were already there, since Lazarus had already died. (Cry)

When Martha heard that Jesus arrived, she ran out to meet him. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. (Cry) But I know that whatever you ask God, he will give you. I know that Lazarus will rise to life again one day.”

So Jesus replied to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

So Martha responded, “I believe.” So Martha ran to find her sister Mary, and Mary also went to Jesus. She asked him a similar question, “If you had been here, my brother would not have died (Cry),” and she began to cry.

When Jesus heard Mary’s cries and the cries of the people, he was moved with compassion. “Where have you laid him to sleep?” (Snore) “I will go and wake him up.” (WAKE UP!)

When the people around him heard Jesus say this they thought he was crazy, because Lazarus had died. (Cry) But Jesus went to the tomb where Lazarus was buried and spoke very loudly.

“Lazarus!” Come forth!

The women, amazed, exclaimed “OH MY!”(The girls can yell OH MY.)

The men gasped. (The boys can gasp.)

For out of the tomb came the shrouded figure of man. “Unbind him,” Jesus said.

When Mary and Martha saw that it was Lazarus they were overjoyed. For he was sick (sniffle) and died (cry), and Jesus called him back to life!

And Jesus did it so that God would be glorified. (Cheer)



Respond (20 minutes)

Apply God's Truth.

Read 1 John 5:11 and John 11:25-26 in the *New Living Translation*:

“And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” (1 John 5:11, NLT)

“Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.” (John 11:25-26, NLT)

The life in Jesus and the life that Jesus offers us is life that never ends: life with God. Death is what separates us from God, but Jesus says that anyone who believes in him will never be separated from God.

The kind of life that Jesus has is made known in the miracle of Lazarus, because even after Lazarus died, when Jesus arrived and called him out of the grave, Lazarus came back to life! Jesus also revealed this kind of life in his own death, because after he died for our sins, Jesus came back to life three days later. The life that Jesus has and offers us is a life with God that never ends!

Is there anything in our own lives that can offer us the same life that Jesus offers us? Can money offer us the kind of life that Jesus offers us? (Hold up a coin or a dollar bill.)

Take student responses.

Can family and friends offer us the kind of life that Jesus offers us? (Hold up a family photo.)

Take student responses.

Can doctors or medicine offer us the kind of life that Jesus offers us? (Hold up a tube of medical ointment.)

Take student responses.

Jesus’s life is unlike any other we can find in this world. The life the world offers us only lasts a short while, while the life that Jesus offers us is a life with God that lasts forever. This invitation to receive this kind of life requires a response. Jesus asks us to respond by trusting in him alone to bring us near to God and to provide for us everlasting life!

Sing and worship together.

Pick a song from the [Praise and Worship Guide](#), or choose one of your own. Incorporate movement into the songs whenever possible.

Close in prayer.

Take prayer requests and then close in prayer together using the prompts below, pausing after each one to allow students to pray individually. After you provide some time for students to respond and before you move on to the following prompt, ask students to join you in saying: “Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Bring your powerful life here.”

Bring before Jesus something difficult that’s going on in your world, nation, or community.

(Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Bring your powerful life here.)

Bring before Jesus a difficult friendship or relationship in your life.

(Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Bring your powerful life here.)

Bring before Jesus a sin habit that you struggle with.

(Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Bring your powerful life here.)

Bring before Jesus something that someone has done that has hurt you.

(Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. Bring your powerful life here.)

Amen.