


DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 14

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 14: Eternal Life Is My Destination

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jesus Calls Lazarus To Life</p> <p><i>John 11</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God.” <i>1 Peter 1:23, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>Life with God forever can be my destiny!</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

In today's true story from the Bible, Jesus does one of his most amazing miracles, and it points to one of God's greatest demonstrations of his power: Jesus coming back to life again after dying!

This is the story of Lazarus, one of Jesus's friends. 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: 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 sake, 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)

Just as Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead, Jesus himself rose again after dying on the cross, winning a battle over death forever for everyone who believes. Everyone who believes can say, “Life is my eternal destination...I will live with God forever, even after dying!

When life with God forever is where we are headed, when our eternity with God is secure, it changes how we live our lives even now! We’ll talk about this more in small groups.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.