

THE THREAD | THE GOSPEL COME TO LIFE

Lesson 9: The Raising Of Lazarus

Dear Parents,

Hello! We just wrapped up the ninth of our 13 lessons, looking at *The Gospel Come To Life* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This lesson was entitled “The Raising of Lazarus.” One of the hardest things about following Jesus is when tragedies tear someone’s life apart. I mean, if God really loves us and has the power to do or prevent anything, then why is life so tragic sometimes? Why can it feel to us that God is sometimes absent during those times? And when miracles do happen, why does it seem they happen in one instance but not in another? In a way, the conversation Jesus has with His disciples during the Last Supper has a lot in common with what happened between Jesus, Mary, and Martha when Lazarus died. Mary and Martha had a very real, difficult, and immediate concern: their brother had died. But though Jesus cared about what they were going through (remember, Jesus cried when they took Him to Lazarus’ tomb), He was pointing to an even greater need—eternal life. Jesus doesn’t just say that there is a way to be reconciled to God or give steps for how to do it. He says that He is the way back to God.

Lesson Overview: We’re closing in on the heart of the Gospel, namely, the arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. But before we get to all that, we’ll spend this week studying an amazing encounter, one of the most fascinating stories in Scripture. We’re going to see how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and, in the process, discover how Jesus Himself is the only source of true life. Our students will be challenged to re-focus their devotion on Christ, trusting Him for true life.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: Understand that Jesus has power over death, the physical laws of our world, and is the only way to salvation and life.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned: Consider and be honest with themselves about the ways they pursue salvation/fulfillment apart from Christ.

Scripture Passages We Studied: John 11:1-44; John 14:1-6

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- Why were Martha and Mary upset with Jesus in the passage you read this week?
- What was Thomas worried about when Jesus told His disciples he was leaving?
- What do you think Jesus’ conversations with Martha, Mary, and Thomas have to do with your friends who maybe don’t have a relationship with Jesus or don’t really want anything to do with God?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don’t hesitate to let me know.