**1. Motivate**

What are some pictures of new life that you have seen?

* birth of a child
* birthing time on a farm … calves, lambs, colts
* the first flowers of spring – sometimes with snow still showing on the ground
* watching babies go from crawling to taking their first steps
* when the lawn goes from dormant brown in winter changing to green blades of grass springing up

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/yy4ya4p2> . If you have no wi-fi where you teach, it is best to download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4yvp6953>

* a beautiful sunrise – birth of a new day

**2. Transition**

The most important new life we see is someone who comes to Jesus.

* Jesus offers us the hope of a new life.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Jesus Is the Resurrection and Life

Listen for the “I am” statement.

John 11:25-27 (NIV) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

What does this “I am” statement teach us about Jesus’ nature and character?

* Jesus is the one who provides eternal life
* we will die physically
* but those who are believers will be resurrected from physical death to spiritual life … union with God

What did Jesus say would happen to those who believed in Him?

* the person will live
* even though physically dead, they will be spiritually alive
* we will live forever in God’s presence

What question did Jesus pose to Martha?

* declared “I am the resurrection”
* do you believe this?
* do you believe that I can resurrect not only your brother now, but all believers eternally?
* “you believe in the eventual resurrection … do you believe that I am the agent of that resurrection?”

What belief did Martha express to Jesus?

* she believed in the eventual resurrection of the dead
* she believed Jesus could accomplish miracles
* she also declared her belief in Him being the Messiah … God come to the world as a man

Why do you think Jesus asked if she believed? Wouldn’t He (as omniscient God) already know?

* this is not a test for Jesus to find out her belief
* this is a test for Martha to find out about herself
* Jesus wants each of us to make that declaration for our own selves
* He was pushing her to make a personal commitment

What does it mean to “believe in” Jesus?

* receive as personal Truth, Jesus work of redemption
* to confess and repent from a sinful way of life
* to accept by faith that Jesus has taken the penalty for our sins and offers us forgiveness and eternal life

To whom does He personally become resurrection and life?

* to those who respond to His offer of salvation
* to those who have confessed and repented from their sinfulness
* to those who have received His promise of the forgiveness of sins

How does the hope of eternal life influence your daily decisions?

* realization that my actions in the here and now will affect eternity
* what I do affects my own eternal destiny
* it also can affect the destiny of those around me
* faith and obedience to the Lord can accomplish great things

How would you describe the hope of eternal life to someone who’s never heard about it?

* contrast the life and death of a plant … it just ceases to exist when it dies
* our spirits continue on even when our physical life ends
* those who have accepted Christ as Savior and Lord will be with Him spiritually forever, eternally

3.2 Faithful Obedience Reveals God’s Glory

Listen for a call to deeper faith.

John 11:38-40 (NIV) Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

We’re told Jesus was deeply moved at the grave site. What strange request did He make?

* open up the tomb
* roll the stone away
* let’s see where Lazarus’ body is

What response does Martha have in this passage?

* don’t remove the stone
* he’s been dead four days, the odor will be bad
* she objected to both the unpleasantness and the embarrassment
* to our culture it would seem macabre, morbid, gruesome
* the smell would be bad (KJV says “he stinketh”)

Why do you suppose Jesus told them to do this? He could have commanded the stone to roll away.

* they get to participate in the miracle
* reassure them
* let them discover for themselves that this was the Lazarus they knew
* Lazarus was alive again – he had to get out of the tomb
* something about "hands on" experience that makes it real and understandable
* our obedience to God’s commands, God’s will results in experiencing God’s glory

What did Jesus remind her, considering her reluctance?

* you must believe – and obey
* then you will see the glory of God demonstrated

What has Jesus promised *us* that we must believe and see His glory demonstrated?

* our salvation, to start with
* to provide for us, protect us
* to be with us
* to be empowered by God’s Holy Spirit
* to answer prayer (with only minuscule faith on our part – the size of a mustard seed)

What can we do to maintain that belief that Jesus meets our needs and answers our prayers, even when our circumstances and His actions don’t make sense to us?

* review His promises – recall Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
* talk to God daily, tell Him your hopes, your frustrations, your praise
* continue to obey God and trust Him
* when God does resolve the situation, make sure to thank Him
* make sure to give God the Glory

3.3 Jesus Is More than Words

Listen for a challenge to believe.

John 11:41-44 (NIV) So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

Why do you think Jesus prayed out loud?

* so the people could know it was prayer to His Heavenly Father
* so people would know it was God doing the resuscitation
* to prepare them for what was about to happen

How did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

* called out in a loud voice
* “Lazarus, come out”
* some people say if Jesus had not specified Lazarus by name, many people would have come from the grave

What did Lazarus do when Jesus called to him?

* Lazarus came out of his tomb
* his hands and feet still wrapped with cloth
* cloth around his face

What did Lazarus do when Jesus called to him?

* Lazarus came out of his tomb
* his hands and feet still wrapped with cloth
* cloth around his face

If you had been there when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, how do you think you might have responded?

* shocked
* amazed
* would make the hair on the back of your neck go up
* somewhat scared, spooked
* impressed

⇨ We should be in just as much awe and praise Him just as much for the workings we see God do in our lives every day!

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Explore.

* Do a computer search of Bible verses that show the nature of Jesus Christ.
* Share those with someone this week who may be struggling in his or her faith.

Evaluate.

* Spend some time reflecting upon your personal confession and salvation story.
* Consider how your confession is being matched by how you are surrendering to the Lord.

Invite.

* As a group, begin to pray for someone this week that you know may be skeptical of the truths of Christ.
* Take time during the week to invite this person to attend Easter services with you.

Double Puzzle
 Clue words taken from John 11:25-27;38-44 (NIV)



 Two different operatives in the country of Dosmadesh secreted this two part message to our Baptist Headquarters there. The church there must meet in homes, but they feel obligated to share with us how God has empowered them to be faithful to the Gospel. Unscramble the clue words (from this week’s Bible passage) and use the numbers to fill in the letters of the message. Tech help and more Fun Family Activities are found at
<https://tinyurl.com/4yvp6953>