

Lesson 11

The Church: Raised to Life

Bible Lesson: John 11:1-45

Memory Verse: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"
John 11:25-26

Enrichment Memory Verse: For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. *1 Corinthians 15:21-22*

Catechism Memory Work: I believe in the Holy Spirit;...
What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead...

TEACHER PREPARATION

Prepare to Teach:

- ✚ Students will know that Jesus Christ is the One who gives life and that He is alive forever.
- ✚ Students will know that believers in Jesus Christ as their Savior have eternal life now and will live forever with Him in heaven.
- ✚ Students will receive Jesus as his/her personal Savior and will look forward to Jesus' return.

Prepare Materials:

Along with the regular materials needed for class, you will need the following items for this lesson:

- ◆ New Word Chart prepared for this lesson
- ◆ map showing Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethany

- ◆ tulip bulb (or bulb of another flower)

Prayer Preparation

1. Pray for each of your students by name. Make each student a special prayer matter on one day of this week.
2. Pray that God's Word, which your students have learned during this year, may have a lasting place in their lives, and that it may bear fruit unto eternal life.
3. Thank God for eternal life in Christ, and for the resurrection to come. Pray that Christ's life in you may grow and be a witness to your students.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

A. Bible Study

We are confident of God's mercy and love even when we come to the end of life. We, through the years of our lives, experience more and more of the effects and consequences of sin. However, as we come to the end of life we can be all the more thankful that we will be removed from the presence of sin and its consequences even in our own lives and bodies.

One of the great promises of Scripture is that we will be raised with bodies "incorruptible" as we are told in 1 Corinthians. We might, in fact, say that there is even in our death, God's activity of mercifully allowing that we might not always and forever deal with our sinful nature. This is where we might say that the resurrection which we look forward to is not exactly the same as those who were raised from the dead in the Scriptures.

Lazarus and others were dead and brought back from the dead. However, they eventually died again. The resurrection we are speaking of and look forward to is a resurrection in which we receive bodies that will never die again.

There is so much confusion about what happens to us after we die. There are, of course, unbelievers who deny that anything happens. There are also false religions that speak about us being reincarnated over and over again until we no longer exist as individuals. False teachers proclaim that when we die we forever shed our physical existence and are only and forever simply spiritual beings.

Against all of these false teachings stand the true teachings of the Holy Scriptures. The Bible declares that we who believe will be bodily raised to eternal life and those who do not believe will be bodily raised to eternal condemnation. Perhaps the confusion comes because we so often hear people embellishing or speculating on things that Scripture does not describe for us. When we consider what our resurrected bodies will be like we should limit our discussions to what God has revealed and not start fanciful discussions based on what we would like to think about the resurrection.

Even the word “incorruptible” points to the inability of mankind to comprehend the reality of what our resurrected bodies will be like. It is a negative term simply telling us that they will not be susceptible to corruption. They are so much more! Our bodies will not be like Frankenstein’s monster; somehow reanimated, but with all sorts of the marks of death and corruption remaining. Our bodies will put on “immortality” (1 Corinthians 15:53). They will be different in ways that we simply cannot fully comprehend now.

So we continue to be mindful that the Scripture tells us that the resurrection is central to our faith as Christians. As Paul said, if Christ is not raised from the dead we are of all men most to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15:19). But Christ has been raised and we who believe will be raised (1 Corinthians 15:23).

B. Creed Study

Lazarus was a friend of Christ. In John 11:3 the sisters made a special reference to “he whom You love.” Jesus Christ loves each of us with the same love. His concern for us is expressed in John 11:35 where the Scriptures declare that “Jesus wept.” His weeping dealt with the sorrow He had over what sin and its results could do to man. In Romans 5:12 God’s Word says “death spread to all men because all sinned.”

When Jesus came to the tomb, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. There was no doubt that Lazarus *was* truly dead. It is interesting to note the unhurried manner of Jesus. When Jesus had heard that Lazarus had been sick, He had stayed two more days (note verse 6). Martha made the comment in 11:21, “Lord if you had been here.” Implied in the text is a sense of disappointment in the timetable of Christ. But we can see from this account the Lord always works out His will in His own perfect timing.

In a powerful way Jesus calls forth Lazarus from the tomb. He first prays to the Father in verses 41-42. Then He calls out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” Notice the means of this tremendous miracle—His Word!

Since Christ showed His power over sin and death we have the hope of living again even though we may experience death. In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 we see the following truths:

1. Verse 13 - As believers we have a confident *hope*.
2. Verse 14 - When we die (if we are true believers) we go to be with the Lord. Remember the thief on the cross who was told, “Today you will be *with Me* in Paradise.”
3. Verses 16-18 - Christ will come again - therefore we can be comforted in His promises.

BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

Welcome

Provide memory work strips for students to help each other review previously learned Bible verses. Check completed work on activity pages brought back.

Open with Prayer

Ask for sentence prayers of thanks for what God, the Holy Spirit is doing in building the students’ faith and giving strength to forgive and be kind to

others. Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach the class today, and lead each one to ask and thank Him for eternal life in Jesus.

Recite Memory Work

Listen to students recite their memory work:

From the Bible: Colossians 3:12-13

And

From the Catechism: I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called

me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers...

Review

Conduct a quick oral review of last week's lesson.

Introduce Wall Words

pneumonia—
ordained—
grief—
mourn—
mourners—
objected—

Introduce the Lesson

Show the tulip bulb. Talk about how it comes from the root of the tulip after the flowers have withered and died. The bulb looks as if it might be dead, but it isn't. Life is inside of it. When bulbs are planted in a garden in the fall of the year they lie there all winter. But in the spring the life in the bulb will start to grow, and eventually we have a beautiful tulip plant. Jesus has taught us that Christians have life in them. It is life that the Holy Spirit gives the believer when he becomes a Christian. The Holy Spirit works in all believer's hearts through God's Word and makes the life in them keep on living and growing. As long as that life is fed on the Word of God and the person remains in Christ, that life will never die. We have learned how good it is to be part of God's Church and have fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and other believers as long as we live. Today's lesson is about

something even better that will happen to all Christians.

Teach the Lesson

More to be added later.

What happens to the souls of Christians when they die? (*they go to heaven*) But their bodies are buried. Will their bodies be dead forever? (*No. They will be raised from the dead and come alive again.* Everyone, *Christian or not will be raised from the dead.*) The Bible teaches us that the bodies of Christians who have died will be raised as new bodies, which will never become sick or die. Christians who are still alive when Jesus returns will have their bodies changed into bodies that will never die or have pain. That will be an instant miracle.

Find John 11 in your Bibles. **CALL ON** a student to read verse 1. What was the problem? (*Lazarus was sick*) **READ** verse 3 through 6. Discuss what the sister did, what they expected Jesus to do, etc. What did Jesus do? Do we know why? The student lesson explains why Jesus didn't go right away. Read and find out. Some questions to discuss: How long did Jesus wait? Who was surprised? Why did Jesus wait? Do we always understand Jesus' answers? **SAY** But Jesus and His disciples finally did go to Bethany. In verse 17 of John 11 we can read what Jesus found. Read and find out what He found. (*Lazarus had been in the grave for 4 days.*) There are two things Jesus said to Martha. Discuss them. (Note: Jesus is eternal life and will give eternal life to all believers; true Christians already have eternal life; Jesus is the resurrection.) What did Jesus do? (*Called Lazarus*) What did Lazarus do? (*He came alive*) Why? What happened because of this miracle? (*Many believed in Jesus.*) Lazarus was raised from the dead to reveal God's power and glory over death. The last day, the day when Jesus comes again, will be a happy day for all those who have believed on Jesus, asked Him to be their Savior, and are living for Him. Read and discuss the last paragraph with the class.

APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

Memory Work

BIBLE VERSE— John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

CATECHISM—READ

I believe in the Holy Spirit...

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him; But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith; in like manner as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and

preserves it in union with Jesus Christ in the one true faith; in which Christian Church He daily forgives abundantly all my sins, and the sins of all believers and at the last day will raise up me and all the dead...

Activity Pages

Activity 1 - From Death to Life

ANSWERS

1. Bethany
2. So that His disciples may believe
3. He had died. Bringing people back to life is just as easy for Jesus as waking someone who is sleeping.
4. four days
5. yes
6. resurrection, life, believes, live, dies, everyone, believes
7. yes, many believed

8. in paradise

9. "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

Activity 2 - Who's Who?

ANSWERS

1. g
2. d
3. h
4. f
5. a
6. i
7. e
8. c
9. b

CLOSING THE LESSON

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Jesus, who died and rose again so we may have eternal life. We ask You to show us our sin everyday and work within us true repentance and sorrow for sin. May each one of us be a true Christian. If someone is not sure whether he is a child of yours help that person to repent and forsake sin, and to receive Jesus as his Savior. Thank you for the promise that believers in Jesus

will never die. Give us your joy and happiness as we wait for Jesus to come again for us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assignment

1. Ask students to share today's lesson with one other person.