

Monday

John 11:1–44

Mary and Martha were sisters who lived in Bethany. They were sad and worried because their brother Lazarus was very sick, so they sent a message asking their close friend Jesus to come. They knew that if Jesus were there, he could help Lazarus. But when Jesus got the sisters' message, he did not come right away! He waited two days before he began to walk toward their home. By the time Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been dead for four days and was already buried in a tomb.

When Jesus finally came, Martha ran to meet him. She said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus said, "Your brother will rise again."

Martha thought Jesus meant that Lazarus would be resurrected, or made alive again, in heaven, because he had loved and trusted God.

Then Jesus told her an amazing thing: "I am the resurrection and the life," he said. "Whoever believes in me will live even though he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Martha said, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God!"

Then Mary and some others came to Jesus. Mary fell down at Jesus' feet, crying. When Jesus saw her and the others who were weeping and crying, he was terribly sad too – so sad that "Jesus wept."

The sisters took Jesus to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. The tomb was like a cave, with a stone blocking the entrance. Jesus asked for the stone to be rolled away. Jesus knew that the death of Lazarus had been part of God's plan to show the world his glory and power.

In a loud voice he shouted, "Lazarus, come out." Then Lazarus stood up and walked out of the tomb, still wrapped up in grave cloths. Lazarus was alive! "Unbind him, and let him go," Jesus said. Everyone who saw Lazarus alive again was amazed, and many of them believed in Jesus.

When Jesus brought Lazarus back to life, he showed his power over death and sin. He showed that he is the Savior God had promised to send. Jesus cares for us too. He came to die on the cross to pay for our sins. He promises that everyone who believes in him will live forever in heaven with him.

- **What amazing thing did Jesus tell Martha?**
- **What did many of the people do when Lazarus was raised from the dead?**
- **What hope does this story give us?**

Close with prayer

Tuesday

Mark 5:21–24, 35–43

One day, as Jesus was traveling, a large crowd met him by the shore of the Sea of Galilee as he was getting off a boat. The crowd gathered around him. Jairus, a man in charge of a Jewish meeting place, saw Jesus and went over to him. Jairus had been waiting for Jesus. He knelt down among the crowd at Jesus' feet. He asked Jesus for help, because his daughter was so sick she was about to die. She was 12 years old. "Come and lay your hands on her," Jairus begged Jesus, "so that she may be made well and live." Jesus had healed many people by touching them. He was willing to heal this girl, too.

Jesus and his disciples went with Jairus, but it took a long time for them to get to Jairus' house, because Jesus was helping other people along the way. Many people were eager to see Jesus and talk with him, and the crowd slowed them down. While Jesus was still on the way, some men came from Jairus' house with bad news. They said to Jairus "Your daughter is dead. Don't trouble Jesus anymore."

Jesus heard them and said to Jairus, "Do not fear, only believe." They continued on their way, and when they reach Jairus' house, Jesus could hear people crying loudly, mourning for the girl who had died.

Jesus went inside and said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping?" He told them the girl was not dead, but only asleep. The mourners did not believe Jesus. They laughed at him. They knew the child had died. Jesus sent everyone away except three of his disciples – Peter, James, and John – and they continued on with the girl's parents to the room where the little girl lay.

Jesus took the girl's hand and said, "Little girl, I say to you, get up." And she did. Immediately, the girl got up and began walking. Jesus told someone to give her food. What an amazing miracle!

Only God can make a dead person come back to life. Jesus is God. After Jesus died, he himself came back to life, too. But this little girl, she's dead now, because she died again. That still is not the end of her story. She lives on in eternal life with Jesus. Even if we die, Jesus promises that he will raise us from the dead – if we trust him, trust that he has power over death, just as he showed with Jairus' daughter.

- **How did Jesus raise the little girl from the dead?**

Close with prayer

Wednesday
Luke 7:11-17

One day as Jesus was traveling with a crowd of people following him, they encountered another procession of people. It was a funeral procession. One group was following the Prince of life and the other was following a dead body on its way to the cemetery.

As the two processions met, Jesus came face to face with a poor widow. The body being carried to the cemetery was that of her son. As the dead boy lay, she was weeping. Jesus stepped up and said to her, "Don't cry." Then he looked at the lifeless young flesh, and he said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" And he did! His eyes opened and suddenly he began to talk. Jesus helped him up and gave him back to his mother. Christ reunites what sin separates. He takes away our tears of sorrow and gives us reason to cry out loud to all the world the joy and comfort that we have trusting in him.

The young man whom Jesus raised from the dead that day, he died again. But what Jesus taught us that day is that death is not the end, because as he shows he has power over death. And by his power, we will join our loved ones who die trusting him and we will join him, our God, in perfect life for eternity.

- **Talk about life/death, funerals, loved ones you've lost, and our need for Jesus.**

Close with prayer

Thursday
1 Kings 17

Elijah was one of the great prophets of the Old Testament – a man of God who did many miracles by the power of God and who spoke the Word of God. Elijah is even mentioned by Jesus in the New Testament.

God was with the prophet Elijah, and God used him to tell the evil King Ahab about God's coming judgment. Because King Ahab was leading the Israelites in idol worship, God said no rain would fall on the land of Israel. That meant no food would grow and there would be a great famine.

But God provided for Elijah during this time. God commanded ravens to bring Elijah food. Morning and evening, the birds brought bread and meat to Elijah, and he drank fresh water from the brook.

After some time, though, the brook dried up because there had been no rain. So God told Elijah to go to a city called Zarephath, where God had commanded a widow to prepare food for Elijah.

Elijah walked to the city and found the woman. He asked her for food – but she said she had only enough flour and oil to make one last small loaf of bread for herself and her son. Elijah told her to make food for herself and her son, but to make some for him first. He told her what God had said: “The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.”

The woman trusted God's word through Elijah. She used her last flour and oil to make bread for Elijah. But then there was more flour in the flour jar and more oil in the jug, so she had enough to make food for herself and her son too! Every day there was more flour and more oil. God took care of them, just as Elijah said God would.

Some time later, the woman's little boy got very sick and died. The boy's mother was heartbroken and didn't know what to do. Elijah said, “Give me your son.” He then carried the little boy upstairs and laid him on his bed. Elijah prayed and asked God to make him alive again.

God answered Elijah's prayer and the boy started breathing! Elijah carried the boy back downstairs and gave him to his mother. “Now I know,” his mother said, “that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

We can trust our loving heavenly Father to take care of us too. He knows what we need – food, drink, clothes, family and friends – and he provides whatever we need in order to follow him faithfully. He gives us his truth and promises through his Son Jesus Christ, which is even better than the truth he spoke through Elijah. He gives us forgiveness of our sins through Jesus, too. And he gives us eternal life. God is so good!

- **What happened when the widow's son died?**
- **Why did she say that she knew what Elijah taught was true?**
- **How do we know that Jesus' words are true?**

Close with prayer

Friday
Acts 20:7-12

It happened at a place called Troas. The apostle Paul was traveling around from one city to another to encourage new believers. Many people gathered in a third-story meeting room to hear Paul preach. Paul planned that the next day he would move on to the next city. Since he still had a lot that he wanted to say to the people of Troas, he preached for a long time, well into the night.

There was a young man there named Eutychus. He was sitting in a window sill listening to Paul. As it got late, Eutychus became tired and dozed off while Paul was preaching. As Eutychus fell asleep, he also fell out of the window. Imagine the fearful thud three stories down and the commotion as people reacted. Everybody was wide awake now!

Paul went downstairs to go outside and see what was happening. Paul pressed through the crowd and got to the side of the boy. He was dead. Eutychus had fallen asleep, fallen out of the window, and died.

Paul lay on the boy and put his arms around him and said, "Don't worry. He is alive." Some of the people helped the boy up and took him home alive, and they were greatly comforted. After this little break, Paul went right back to preaching and continued until daybreak.

What happened to Eutychus afterward we are not told. We never hear anything more about him. But what a wonderful blessing for that boy! When he grew up and heard his friends telling stories, Eutychus could always tell them the story of the night he died and a man who preached in the name of Christ raised him from the dead, because the name of Christ is the name that has power over death. And that story is one you can tell your friends too.

- **Who was Eutychus? What did he do? What happened to him? Would you want to be Eutychus and have this story about you recorded in the Bible for lots and lots of people to know about?**

Pray a prayer of thanks to God for raising us from spiritual death as we look forward to our resurrection to eternal life.