

BIG TRUTH: GOD RESCUES ME FROM DEATH

John 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; 6:35-40; 10:27-28; 1 Timothy 1:12-16; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 5:11-13

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us dead spiritually and leads to death physically.
- God raised Jesus from the dead defeating death itself.
- God gives new life spiritually and eternally through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY: JOHN 11:1-44

God is more powerful than anything, including death. We are all spiritually dead and God gives us new life through Jesus Christ. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead as a sign of what His death on the cross does for every person who believes in Him.

STORY: REDEMPTION

Thankfully, God does not just leave us in the broken world, but is repairing the brokenness through His Son. From the very beginning of time, God promised He would fix creation, and He kept His promise by sending Jesus to rescue us from our sin. Jesus came to live on the earth and willingly died on the cross so that sin's power over creation would be broken forever.

BIG AIMS**Every child should know that:**

- God has provided a rescue plan for us through Jesus

**Every child should feel:**

- A desperate need to be rescued from sin and death

**Every child should:**

- Remember that God proved He is more powerful than sin and death through Jesus

**Every child should want:**

- To be rescued by Jesus who is our Savior

A NEW LIFE

Gather together different colored crepe paper, clear contact paper, and black construction paper. Cut the outline of a butterfly out of the black construction paper. Place the contact paper on one side of the butterfly outline. Next, scrunch up the crepe paper and place it on the sticky side of the contact paper. Place another piece of contact paper on the back to seal the crepe paper. Just like a caterpillar becomes a butterfly after being inside the cocoon, Jesus gives us new life through His own resurrection.

DISCOVER IT: *(Use the passage to illustrate the Big Truth.)*

John 11:1-44.

THINK ABOUT IT: *(Use the commentary to reinforce the Big Truth.)*

When sin entered the world, death entered the world, too. The sin that is in the heart of every person makes us spiritually dead. God doesn't leave us in our sin or spiritually dead. When Lazarus died, his sisters knew that Jesus could have prevented his death. Jesus knew that Lazarus was going to die, but He also knew that He was going to bring Lazarus back to life. Lazarus' death was a way to show the world what Jesus was going to do for Himself and what He offers to everyone who believes in Him. Even though Jesus knew that Lazarus would live again, He still felt great sorrow over the pain that death brings to people. He wept with Martha and Mary over their brother's death because death brings pain. Our spiritual deadness doesn't have to be eternal. When we have saving faith in Jesus, we can be made new spiritually. Jesus gives new life to us and we can live forever with Him in heaven after our physical death. Though death is a consequence of living in a broken world, it does not have to be an eternal reality for those who turn away from their sin and believe in Jesus. Jesus gives us new life spiritually and offers eternal life with Him in heaven through His own life, death and resurrection.

TALK ABOUT IT: *(Use the questions to discuss the Big Truth)*

- Why did Jesus weep when He saw Martha and Mary? (He wept over the pain that death brings to people on earth.)
- What did Jesus do for Lazarus? (He raised him from the dead.)
- How does Jesus give us new life? (He died for our sin and offers us new life in Him.)

**KNOW**

As a family memorize Romans 6:23 by writing each word of the verse on an index card twice and making a matching game out of the verse. Play the matching game several times. Every time you get a match, set the words of the verse in order and then say it out loud.

**DO**

Role-play the events of the resurrection of Lazarus. Use a blanket or towels to wrap "Lazarus" and take turns calling him out of the tomb. Talk with your child about how Jesus gives us new life when we have saving faith in Him.

**FEEL**

Use masking tape and black construction paper to create a Lazarus mummy doll. Draw the outline of a figure on the paper, cut it out and then place masking tape over it to make a "mummy." Talk with your child about how Lazarus was dead and wrapped with cloths in the grave just like we are spiritually dead in our sin. Jesus raised Lazarus to new life just like He gives us new life spiritually when we have saving faith in Him.

**WANT**

Spend some time this week talking with your child about what it means to you to be made new in Christ. Share with your child some of the differences in your life since you have placed your faith in Jesus.