

## Aim of lesson

To grasp the reality of the resurrection and the power that the Lord Jesus has over life and death.

## Bible background

John 11

## Outline of lesson

### Lazarus is dead

Read together John 11:1-16. Ask the class to imagine how the sisters felt with Lazarus gravely ill. In the workbooks use the first illustration (Monday) to bring out Martha's feelings as they see their brother dying and send for Jesus. Bring out Martha's confidence in Jesus' love for her brother (Jesus did not hide his love for his friends) and her confidence that Jesus could heal her sick brother.

### The Resurrection and the Life

Read together John 11:17-37. The second part of the workbook "Tuesday", is about the day Lazarus died and was buried. Encourage them to enter into the feelings of the sisters: their sadness at the death of their brother, wishing that Jesus had arrived in time and not understanding why he hadn't come. Ask the class what the sisters thought would happen to Lazarus. Encourage them to include here Martha's faith in the resurrection at the last day (verse 24). Ask where she got her faith from. Use John 5:28,29 to show she would have learned it from the teaching of Jesus, and Daniel 12:2 to show she would have learned it also from her Old Testament scriptures. Help them to see that Martha would still be sad as she would miss her brother even though she knew he would be raised in the future.

### Lazarus, come out!

Read together John 11:38-44. Get the class to fill in the last section, (Friday – the four days would include the first and the last). Use this section for the class to recount what happened, and also encourage them to consider the way in which Martha's faith would have grown. She would learn that Jesus had complete control of life and death and that even what she had not understood at the time, her sorrow and Lazarus' death, had in the end been for the glory of God.

### The dead in Christ will rise first

Discuss being afraid of death with the class. It is easy not to be afraid of death when it is miles away from you or does not involve anyone you know, but it's not so easy when it comes very near. Encourage the class to talk about this and to bring out any fear they may have. Ask them to consider why Jesus refers to death as a sleep. Get the class to look at the way Paul comforts the Thessalonians about their fellow Christians who have died, in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. You may also like to use 1 Corinthians 15:51-54.

## Digging deeper

### Reactions to a resurrection

This section looks at the effects that the raising of Lazarus had on different people. It includes Mary, and her anointing of Jesus, which is not covered elsewhere in these notes.

John

11:45 Many Jewish People / put their faith in him

11:46 Some people / wanted to get him into trouble

11:53 Chief priests and Pharisees / plotted to kill Jesus

12:1-8 Mary / realised how much she loved Jesus

12:9-11 A crowd / were curious, and the Chief Priests / made plans to kill Lazarus

12:17 Many Jewish people / spread the word

## Relevance to our lives

The class could write a prayer during the week, expressing their feelings about death and resurrection.

## Prayer

Dear Lord, I am glad that life and death are in your hands. Thank you for giving us the hope of resurrection and eternal life. Help us to trust you even when we have to face death.

## Other suggestions for activities

- A 'radio interview' could be made. Different members of the class could be the interviewer, Martha or Mary, Lazarus, bystanders, and disciples.
- The chart of the 'I AM' sayings of Jesus could be continued.
- There is a crossword review of John chapters 1-11 after this section. You may like to use this as homework to consolidate and revise the lessons gained from these chapters from the past few weeks.