

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 29th March
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.

You can find it in your Bible in:

John 11 v 1–45

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children’s story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we will be thinking about at church this week are:

Ezekiel 37 v 1-14
Romans 8 v 6-11
Psalm 130

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus healing Lazarus which reminds us that you care about how we are feeling.

Thank you know what it is to be sad and upset and that you are our comforter.

We pray for those in the world who are scared at the moment; for those who are sad or mourning, that you would comfort them.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Who in the story was sad?

What are some of the things that make you sad?

Lots of people in the story were upset because Lazarus their friend was not with them anymore. Verse 35 is the shortest verse in the Bible: “Jesus Wept” – we know that just like us there were things that made Jesus sad. When we are sad, we can know that Jesus understands and wants to comfort us just like he wanted to comfort his friends Mary and Martha.

A question for children to ask adults

Even though Martha was sad that her brother was gone, she still believed that he would be given new life after death.

What do you think heaven is like?

Family Activity 1

Build a blanket fort.

Using pillows, blankets, bedding etc. build your own blanket fort together. Snuggle inside together.

You could use this time to remember the tomb in the story that Jesus called Lazarus out from, or just take the time to talk about how everybody is feeling.

Just like Lazarus came out of the tomb and started afresh why not pray and give any fears, worries or sadness to God inside the blanket fort before you take it down.



A verse to remember

Psalm 130 v 5 “I wait for the LORD to help me, and I trust his word.”

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Just like Mary and Martha in the story, sometimes we have to wait for God to answer our prayers. Even though we are waiting for an end to Coronavirus we can keep trusting in God and his promises and keep praying and asking God to protect and provide for us.

Family Activity 2

You will need: Music

Play a game of ‘Musical Sleeps’ – when the music plays everybody should dance around and celebrate. When the music stops, they should lie down on the floor as fast as possible.



Helping Older Children

Your child may have heard that the virus is causing many deaths around the world, do not be afraid of talking to your children about death. Lent is our journey to Easter, a time to remember that Jesus defeated death and rose again.

It is alright to be sad

Jesus knew that he was going to bring Lazarus back to life, but he was still sad. It is alright to be sad when we think about death or when somebody we know has died. God is with us even when we are sad.

This isn't how God planned the world

Jesus knew that this wasn't how the world was supposed to be. God's original plan was for a world with no sickness, no pain, nobody hurting and everybody living forever with him. It is because of sin in the world that it is not like that.

When we die, we have a new life in heaven

Even though it is hard to lose people, God has made a way through Jesus that everybody can become his friend, be forgiven for their sins and live for eternity with God. In heaven there is no pain, sickness, sadness or death.

God is bigger!

God is bigger than anything we are scared or worried about, bigger than sickness or death. When we are sad or scared or worried we can call out to God. God is always with us and always hears us. It's good to talk to grown ups who we trust too, share how we are feeling so that they can pray with us.

Active Prayer

Use the pictures of emotions on the next page – take it in turns to try and pull the face and see who can guess what emotion you are showing.

Take a moment after each one to pray for people in the world who might be feeling that emotion.

Thank God for the positive emotions and ask God to be with those experiencing negative emotions.



Emotions



happy



sad



angry



scared



shy



confident



surprised



ashamed



disgusted



exhausted



confused



bored

A colouring page you could print and colour together

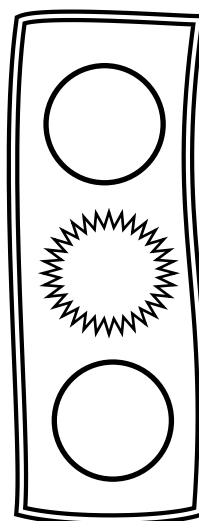
I **WAIT** FOR

THE LORD TO

HELP ME, AND

I **TRUST**

HIS WORD.



PSALM 130 v 5

Puzzle Sheet

God wants us to talk with Him and share how we are feeling... draw a picture in the box below, can you show on the face the way you feel?

Can you find all these emotions in the wordsearch?

e n b p p d q h n x f o q t d
 m x s c h n a d e r o b n n a
 c l c z t p p j a h h e r h s
 f q a i p m s v r e d j u b k
 t w r y t i e y t i i m m b b
 v c e p r e h v f e u s p e d
 y a d s w h d n f t l u z s e
 y k e m v m o c k c s i e t s
 y b n z f c o n f u s e d a i
 u r z g e z u z w n m g j i r
 q h g y y x h p c m v q y i p
 z x u n y u p n i f b h k f r
 f i z n a i w u h w s a n w u
 c w s i a j i f j q x m n m s
 v t a h r r f c e q e x c w q

happy
 sad
 excited
 scared
 bored
 confused
 surprised
 shy
 angry
 confident

In the story Jesus brought his friend Lazarus back from the dead. Join the dots in order to complete the picture and then colour it in.

