



# The Word @ Home

Lent 5

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

## The Point

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Jesus gives us life.

## Key Verse

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Jesus said to [Martha], “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.”

– John 11:25-26

## Scripture Summaries

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**Gospel:** John 11:1-45

### Jesus Raises Lazarus

Jesus received a message from Mary and Martha that simply said that their brother Lazarus was sick. The sisters presumably thought that Jesus would come right away and could heal their brother. However, Jesus remained where he was for two days before traveling to Bethany. After Jesus arrived in Bethany, he was told that he was too late, and Lazarus had already died. Both Martha and Mary affirm their faith in Jesus but are understandably upset. Jesus himself weeps for his friend, but then calls him out of his tomb.

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

God gives the prophet Ezekiel a vision of a valley full of dry bones. It is the word of God spoken through the prophet that brings life back to these bones.

**Second Reading:** Romans 8:6-11

Paul sets in contrast a life focused on living for yourself to a life focused on living for God. It is only through the gift of the Spirit that we can be in a full relationship with God.

## Seasons & Festivals

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts 40 days, culminating with Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Historically, black has been used on Ash Wednesday since it is the color of the ashes to which we will all return. Purple is typically associated with the season of Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity.

## Discussion Starters

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- How do you think each of the main characters in the story (Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and Jesus) felt when Lazarus was sick and Jesus did not come to heal him?
- How do you think each of those same characters felt when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead?
- When have you seen Jesus bring new life to a situation?

## Prayer of the Week

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Jesus, unbind us from the things that keep us down and bring us to new life. Amen.

## Daily Bible Readings

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As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Read John 11:1-45</b> Jesus raises Lazarus. Used stuffed animals to act out this lesson. Be sure to wrap one in towels or strips of crepe paper or toilet paper to be Lazarus.
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Read 1 Kings 17:17-24</b> Elijah raises the widow's son. Did you know so many people were raised from the dead in the Bible? Check out one more in Acts 20:7-12.
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Read 2 Kings 4:18-37</b> Elisha raises the woman's son. At the end of this story, sneeze seven times.
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Read Psalm 143</b> Lord, hear my prayer. Sing or listen to the refrain from the Taizé song " <a href="#">Lord, Hear My Prayer</a> ." Website hyperlinks are provided for your convenience and are correct and relevant at the time of publication but may not be at the time of use
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Read Philippians 1:1-11</b> Paul and Timothy express their gratefulness. For whom are you grateful? Share your thoughts with one other person.
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Read Philippians 1:21-30</b> To live is Christ and to die is gain. What are your favorite things about your life? What do you think life will be like in God's future kingdom?
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Read Mark 10:32-34</b> Jesus predicts his death a third time. As we approach Holy Week, think about the meaning of the upcoming days. Why is it important to observe all the days and not just skip ahead to Easter?



## Blessing for the Week

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Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:  
**Jesus brings you new life.**