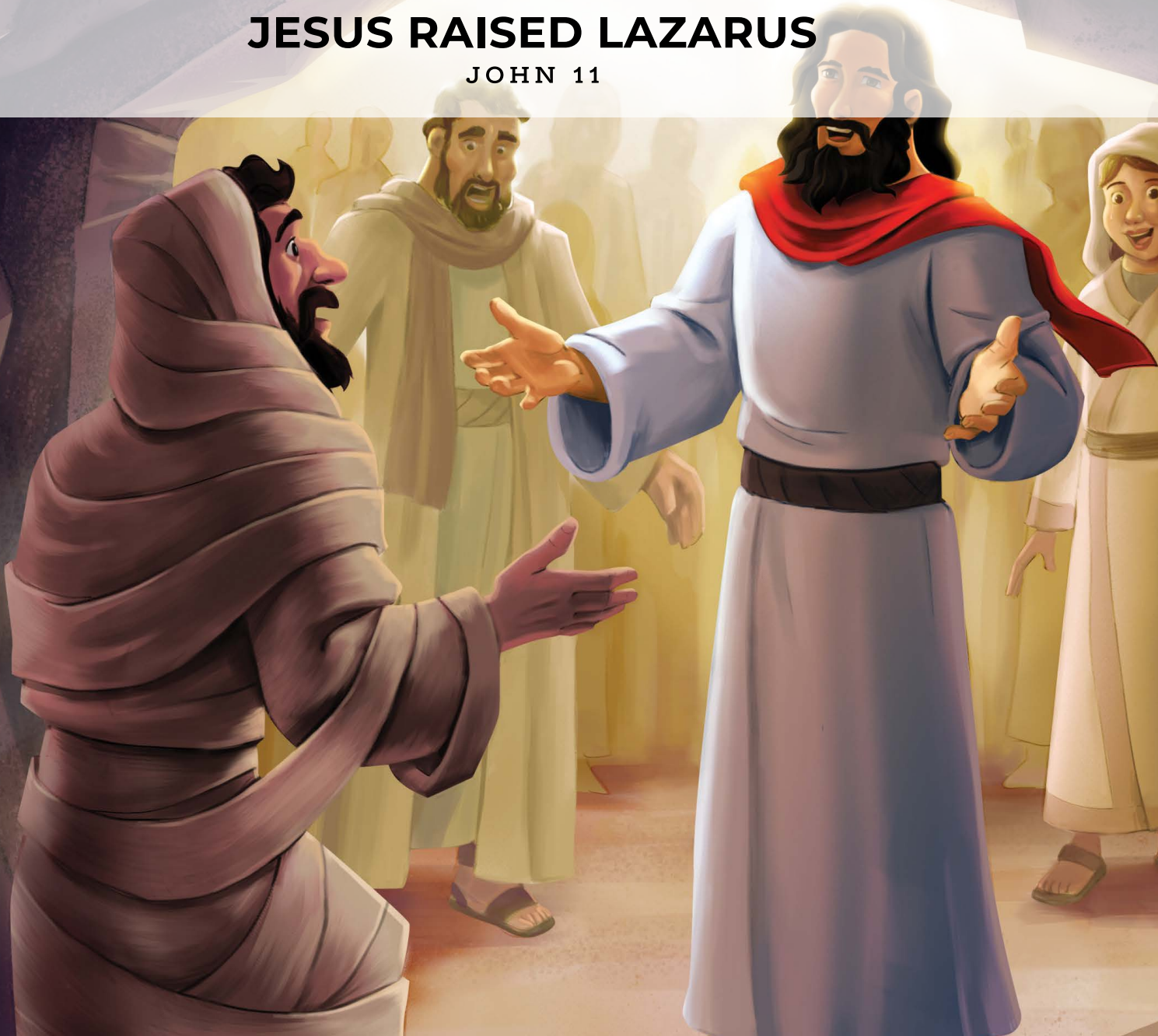


JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

JOHN 11



KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do we need to be born again? Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.

CHRIST CONNECTION: By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed He is the Messiah, the Son of God, who gives eternal life. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever.

STORY POINT: By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed He is the Messiah who gives eternal life.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The basic premise of our existence is that we were created to be in a right relationship with God and to glorify His name. Even our most difficult circumstances and life events can be conduits for glorifying God. And yet, in the story of Lazarus' resurrection, we see the tension that often comes in the life of people who trust Jesus but are also struggling with their present circumstances.

John 11 begins with Jesus hearing that Lazarus is dying. Yet, Jesus stays where He is two more days (John 11:6). The text uses the verb *menō*—"to remain, to stay, to abide." It is not the stillness of indifference but the stillness of intention. Jesus is not delayed; He is deliberate. This is the same Greek word that Jesus would use in John 15 to describe what should mark our relationship with Him: "Remain in me" (John 15:5). In both places, the Bible is describing deliberate action.

Some of the deepest struggles in our spiritual lives form around the question, "What do I do when Jesus doesn't move at the speed of my pain?" Mary and Martha cried out for help. They knew Jesus loved them. They also had witnessed Him heal numerous people, and they knew that if He would get there in time, everything would be okay. But the clock kept ticking, and Lazarus kept slipping away. What they interpreted as Jesus' absence was preparation for a greater revelation.

Jesus eventually told His disciples exactly why He waited. He said: "It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (John 11:4). Jesus knew that a greater story was being written, a resurrection story.

When Jesus finally arrived, Martha ran to Him saying, "Lord, if You had been here ..." This statement is similar to the words the disciples would later share on the road to Emmaus when they reflected on Jesus' crucifixion and said, "We had hoped ..." In both instances, Jesus knew that God would be glorified in a mighty way through resurrection.

This week, point kids to the highs and lows in this story. Remind them that our compassionate God identifies with our pain and went to great lengths to one day make all things right again through His life, death, and resurrection.



Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Connect the Dots" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ washable paint and foam paintbrushes
- ☐ cardstock
- ☐ wipes
- ☐ plastic tablecloths
- ☐ aprons or old T-shirts (optional)

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ tissues
- ☐ brown paper lunch bags
- ☐ brads and hole punch
- ☐ plastic spoons



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ index cards

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ green construction paper
- ☐ red construction paper
- ☐ yellow construction paper

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible story coloring page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "Jesus Raised Lazarus" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ flannel board (optional)

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 26, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ painter's tape
- ☐ paint and brushes
- ☐ paper towels
- ☐ "The One Who Believes in Me (John 11:25)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “What’s something you’ve had to wait for? How does waiting make you feel?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Connect the Dots” activity page.

| **SAY** “Today we will learn how Jesus raised a dead man named Lazarus. **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.**”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: HANDPRINT BUTTERFLIES

Before this activity, use a marker to draw the body of a butterfly down the center of each piece of cardstock. Make one for each kid. Invite kids to sit around tables that are covered with plastic tablecloths. Have adult volunteers walk around the room and assist kids in painting each of their hands with washable paint and stamping their handprints onto their papers like butterfly wings. Lead kids to wipe or wash their hands while they wait for their handprints to dry. Once the paint dries, let kids add faces to their butterflies.

| **SAY** “Butterflies often remind us of new life, because a caterpillar goes into a cocoon for a time and comes out as a butterfly. Today’s story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, reminds us of the new life Jesus gives. **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.**”

☐ OPTION 2: JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

Distribute a spoon, scissors, and two tissues to each kid. Place tape and markers in the center of each table. Direct kids to use the markers to draw a face on the back of their spoon (for Lazarus). Then, lead kids to cut their tissues into strips and wrap the strips around the spoon. Kids can use tape to help secure the ends. Next, distribute paper bags and instruct kids to twist the top of the bag and then cut a hole on one of the sides for the tomb opening. Then, distribute a brad and paper circle to each kid. Assist them as they secure the stone to the tomb with a brad. Lastly, encourage kids to put Lazarus in the tomb.

| **SAY** “Today we will study the true story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.**”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Welcome, kids! I am so glad you are here. My name is [your name] and today I get to share a true story from the Bible with you. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? (Distribute Bibles to kids who do not have them.) Today as we learn about Jesus raising His friend Lazarus from the dead, let’s ask God to prepare our hearts to hear from His Word. ‘Lord, You are the Messiah who came to die on the cross and rise again to take away our sins. Thank You for the new life You give to all who trust in You. In Jesus’ name, amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “As we study God’s Word together, we like to think about a big picture question and answer to help us focus on an important truth. Does anyone remember our big picture question? **[Allow responses.]** Our big picture question is: **Why do we need to be born again?** The answer to this question is: **Because of sin we are spiritually dead, but Jesus came to give us new life.**

Today we will see how Jesus raised the dead and is the Messiah who gives eternal life. When we trust Jesus as Savior, we receive new life and will live with God forever. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “Jesus showed that He is the Messiah through all He did during His ministry on earth. We saw how He meets physical and spiritual needs when He fed the crowd with just five loaves and two fish. Jesus then showed He is God by walking on water. We also saw how Jesus has power over sickness and sin when He healed both a child and a man. Today we will see that **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.** ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to John 11. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Raised Lazarus.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JESUS RAISED LAZARUS

“Jesus had good friends named Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. One day, Mary and Martha sent Jesus a message saying, “Lazarus, who You love, is very sick.”

When Jesus heard this news, He said, “This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Then Jesus stayed where He was for two more days.

Then Jesus told His disciples, “Let’s go to Judea, where Lazarus lives.” The disciples were nervous to travel to Judea because people lived there who wanted to kill Jesus. However, one of the disciples named Thomas encouraged the other disciples to follow Jesus.

When Jesus arrived in Judea, Lazarus had been in a tomb for four days. Martha came to Jesus and said, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But I believe You are the Son of God.”

Jesus said, “Your brother will live again.”

Martha said, “I know he will live again at the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after they die. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never really die.”

Mary came and cried at Jesus’ feet. Jesus was deeply moved and wept with His friends. He loved Lazarus and His friends very much.

Then Jesus went to the tomb. He told the people to roll away the stone covering the entrance. Martha was worried because Lazarus had been dead for several days and the tomb would smell.

Jesus prayed to God. Then He shouted, “Lazarus, come out!”

Lazarus walked out of the tomb! He was wrapped in cloth, but he was alive!

Everyone was amazed. They saw that Jesus has power over death.

Christ Connection: By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus showed He is the Messiah, the Son of God, who gives eternal life. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Visuals: Use a flannel board or cutouts of the people in today’s story to tell the story. Be sure to include Jesus, Lazarus, Jesus’ disciples, Mary, Martha, a crowd, and a tomb.

Eye contact: Maintain eye contact with kids and use an engaging voice as you tell the story.



2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ When Jesus received the message about Lazarus being sick, how did He respond? [Allow responses.] Jesus said that Lazarus’ sickness would not end in death, but that God would be glorified through Lazarus’ sickness. The Bible tells us that Jesus loved Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha, but Jesus did not immediately go to them. He waited two more days before going to Judea.

When Jesus arrived, Martha met Jesus. What did she say to Him? [Allow responses.] She told Jesus that she knew if He had been with them, Lazarus would not have died. Jesus then reminded Martha who He is—the Messiah who gives eternal life. Lazarus’ sisters were very sad because their brother had died. Jesus was deeply moved by their sadness, and the Bible says that Jesus cried, showing His love for Lazarus and his sisters. Then, Jesus went to Lazarus’ tomb. He instructed the stone to be rolled away from the tomb’s opening. Then, He prayed to God the Father and shouted for Lazarus to come out. Lazarus came out of the tomb alive, still wrapped in burial cloths.

BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE. Jesus died and rose again to take away our sins. When we trust in Him, we receive new life and will live with God forever. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ Today we saw that Jesus is the Messiah, who gives eternal life. If you would like to learn more about trusting Jesus as your Savior and having new life in Him, I encourage you to talk with a parent or church leader. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 26, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why does God let Christians suffer?
2. How can you remember to trust God, even when it’s difficult?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “In 2020, Deaf people numbered around 70 million people around the world. Most Deaf people do not have the Bible in their sign language. A group called Deaf Pathway Global is translating Bible stories into sign languages around the world. Deaf people who know and love Jesus are making these translations so other Deaf people can understand the Bible in their own language.

A little over 30 years ago, a woman named Betty Stirrsman noticed that many Deaf people in Tennessee had no church of their own. This made her and her church, Brentwood Baptist Church, sad. In 1984, Betty started interpreting Brentwood’s worship services in sign language. By 1986, the church started a Deaf Sunday School class, and in 1995, the Brentwood Baptist Deaf Church began. Now Betty’s vision for helping the Deaf know about Jesus reaches around the world through a partnership with the International Mission Board (IMB) and the Bible translation work of Deaf Pathway Global.

So far, Deaf translators have translated Bible stories into 13 sign languages, including Chinese, Czech, English, Polish, and Thai. The group’s goal is to translate at least 300 Bible stories in every sign language.”

Encourage kids to thank God for Deaf Pathway Global which is helping tell Deaf people who do not know about Jesus and assisting Deaf Christians in telling their Deaf friends about Him.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 11:25 together.

SAY “Our key passage reminds us that even when a believer dies physically in this world, they are alive in heaven with the Lord. Because of Jesus, believers can have eternal life.”

Before this activity, use painter’s tape to create a cross shape on each paper. Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute paper, paints, brushes, and water to each kid. Place paper towels in the center of each table. Lead kids to use the watercolor paints to paint around the cross. Allow the papers to dry. Then, carefully remove the painter’s tape, leaving the shape of a cross on the paper. Lead kids to write the key passage within the space of the cross on the paper.

Lead kids to sing “The One Who Believes in Me (John 11:25).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Lord, thank You for sending Jesus as the Messiah. Thank You that through Him we can have our sins forgiven and can have new life with You forever. Help us share this good news with other people. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the New Testament Israel Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to John 11. Explain that John is the only Gospel writer to record the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. John, as one of Jesus' disciples, would have seen this miracle with his own eyes.

Consider pointing out the location of Bethany [I4] on the New Testament Israel Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 11:25-26, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY “ When Jesus arrived at Lazarus’ house, Martha greeted Jesus and told Him she knew that if He had been with them, Jesus could have healed Lazarus. Jesus then reminded Martha that He is the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Him will never die.

This is true not just for Lazarus, but for anyone who trusts in Jesus as Savior. Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that believers can have life forever with God. All people will eventually pass away from this earth, but anyone who has been saved will never experience everlasting death. When a believer dies, he or she will immediately go to be with the Lord, experiencing life forever with God. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why do you think Jesus waited to go to Lazarus? ”

Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus’ sickness was for the glory of God. Jesus waited to go to Lazarus until he had died so that Jesus could raise Lazarus from the dead. **BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE.** (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 11:40.)

SAY “ What does this story show us about how God loves and cares for His children? ”

The Bible tells us how much Jesus loved Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. He was deeply moved by their sorrow over Lazarus’ death and even cried with them. Jesus knew that He would raise Lazarus from the dead, but He cried because He loved and cared for Mary and Martha. Jesus loves and cares for us in the same way. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 11:33-35.)

SAY “ How can believers have hope even when someone they love dies? ”

For a believer, this world is not the end. When a believer dies, they go to heaven to be with the Lord forever, experiencing the new life He gives, free from sin, pain, sadness, and sickness. This allows those who have trusted Jesus as Savior to have hope even in sadness, knowing through Jesus’ death and resurrection, all believers will be with God when they die. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 31:24.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: JESUS CARES

Invite kids to sit around tables and distribute three index cards to each kid. Challenge kids to use a marker to draw a smiling face on one card, a frowning face on the second card, and a question mark on the third card. Then, direct kids to listen closely as you describe a scene from today's story. Encourage them to think about how a certain person felt in that scene and hold up the card that describes how that person was feeling. For example, Mary and Martha's brother, Lazarus died. How do you think Mary and Martha were feeling? Kids could hold up the frowning face or the question mark because Mary and Martha might have felt like they didn't understand why Jesus waited to come. Continue with different scenes from today's story.

SAY “BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD, JESUS SHOWED HE IS THE MESSIAH WHO GIVES ETERNAL LIFE. Jesus loves and cares for us. That is why He came to die on the cross and rise again. Through Him we can spend forever with God in heaven.”

☐ OPTION 2: GO, WAIT, STOP!



Direct kids to line up, side by side on one side of the room. Stand on the other side of the room. Challenge kids to watch carefully as you hold up either a red, yellow, or green sign. When you hold up a green sign, direct kids to begin slowly walking toward you. When you hold up a yellow sign, instruct kids to slow down almost to a stop. When you hold up a red sign, direct kids to stop where they are. If a kid does not obey the color sign, he or she must sit out until the next round. For an added challenge, change the colors more quickly as the game continues. Repeat as time allows.

SAY “Similar to how we had to stop when a red sign was shown in today's game, there may be times when we must stop and wait for an answer to our prayers, but we can always trust that God's timing is perfect.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.