

READING

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 31-45

SYNOPSIS

When Jesus heard that Lazarus had died, he went to the home of Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary. There Jesus promised life after death for all who have faith in him. As a sign of that promise, Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. We are called to be like Martha and Mary, confident in Jesus' promise of eternal life.



MATERIALS NEEDED

- Small rubber ball
- Sheet of newspaper
- Tape

DEMONSTRATION

1. Before the session, tape a small rubber ball to the corner of a sheet of newspaper. Being careful not to reveal the ball to the children, show them the newspaper and then quickly scrunch the paper with your hands to form a ball with the rubber ball inside.
2. Ask: ***Do you think this newspaper ball will bounce?*** Ask for a volunteer to toss the ball on the floor or on a desktop. Say: ***I never knew paper could bounce, did you? There must be something more to this paper ball.*** [Have the volunteer open it to reveal the rubber ball.] ***Oh, I see! At the core of the newspaper ball is a rubber ball and that's what made it bounce! Sometimes things happen that surprise us. In the Gospel this week, Jesus brings a man back to life after he had died. Jesus performs the miracle so that everyone who heard about it could believe that he was sent from God. Jesus also says that if we have faith in God, we will never die.***
3. Tell in your own words or read the story of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45) to the children.
4. Say: ***God gave Jesus the power to give us all life forever.***
5. Pray together that we will always believe in Jesus' promise of eternal life. Then pray together: "Jesus, we believe that you are the Resurrection and the life."

