

A Miracle at the Morgue

Bible Story

Lazarus Raised From the Dead

Scripture

John 11:17-44

The Scene: outside Lazarus' tomb

The Simple Setup: You'll need no furniture on the stage; an open area where it's easy for your students to gather is best.

For Extra Impact: Break into the church's Easter cantata costumes and props. Without too much effort, you could have a fully costumed cast!

The Characters

narrator: a friendly storyteller

Lazarus: a guy

Martha: a girl

Funeral Director: a guy or girl who can project a snooty attitude

Mary: a girl

Mourners: children willing to act sad

Jesus: a guy

The Skit

After you've assigned the roles of Martha, Mary, Jesus, Lazarus, and the Funeral Director, ask the remaining children to play the role of Mourners.



Start the "Lazarus Raised From the Dead" track on *The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children's Ministry CD* (track 32). Set your CD player on "repeat" so the track repeats.

As the skit starts, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are at stage left. So are the Mourners. Lazarus is lying flat on the floor. Jesus enters from stage right.

narrator: Jesus had been called to the home of Lazarus, a very close friend. The reason was sad—Lazarus had DIED just days before.

Funeral Director: Good afternoon, sir. I am the Funeral Director. Are you a friend of the family?

Jesus: Yes, I am.

Martha: Jesus, I'm so GLAD you're here. We've been expecting you for DAYS. If you had been here earlier, Lazarus wouldn't have died. Why didn't you COME?

Jesus: Don't worry, Martha. Your brother will rise again.

Martha: I know that, but waiting until the resurrection doesn't help me NOW. I'm so SAD.

Jesus: You don't have to wait. I AM that resurrection.

Martha: Jesus, you ARE the Messiah, the Son of God.

Funeral Director: Then you're a VERY special guest. Should I seat Jesus with the family?

Jesus: Is Mary here?

Martha: Mary! The TEACHER is here, and he's asking for you.

Mary: I can't believe Lazarus is dead. I can't believe he's GONE. Jesus, if you'd just been here...

Martha: I already told him that.

Jesus: Where IS Lazarus?

Funeral Director: If you'd step this way, please.

We've prepared the body and sealed the tomb, but I can show you the grave site.

Mourners: We can't believe Lazarus is dead! We can't believe he's gone!

Jesus: Open the tomb.

Funeral Director: Sir. You don't understand...

Jesus: No, it's YOU who doesn't understand. Open the tomb.

Martha: By the way, since there WEREN'T any funeral directors in Bible times, and dead people were buried within 24 hours, what is that Funeral Director DOING here?

narrator: He's here to help our skit move along faster. He doesn't really EXIST.

Martha: OK. Just wanted to clear that up.

Funeral Director: So much for job security...

Mary: Jesus, my brother has been dead for FOUR days.



Funeral Director: The body is going to be decaying by now, sir. If you open that tomb, there's going to be a BIG stink.

Jesus: If you don't LEAVE, there's going to be a big stink. Open the tomb and leave. You are NOT needed here.

Funeral Director: Very well, sir. We'll move the stone over the tomb. It's YOUR funeral—so to speak.

Narrator: As the tomb of Lazarus was being opened, the Mourners looked at Jesus. Jesus was WEEPING. He truly loved Lazarus. Then Jesus stood and faced the tomb. Jesus called out words nobody thought they'd hear.

Jesus: (With authority) LAZARUS. COME OUT!

Lazarus: Are you calling me?

Jesus: Yes, I'm calling you. Get OUT here!

Lazarus: Coming! I'm just a little... tied up. Why am I wearing grave wrappings? What's going ON here?

Funeral Director: Wait—that man was DEAD. I BURIED him!

Jesus: Like I said, you aren't needed here. I am the resurrection and the life, and one of these days I'll put death TOTALLY out of business.

Narrator: The Mourners were ASTOUNDED! They jumped with joy! They raised their hands and praised God!

Funeral Director: Jesus, even though I don't really exist, I hope you don't do away with death any time soon. Then I'll REALLY be out of a job!

Jesus: (Hugging Lazarus) I am SO glad to see you, friend.

Lazarus: I'm glad to see you, TOO. Man, what HAPPENED? I slept like the DEAD last night.

Jesus: Not just last night. We're talking DAYS.

Martha: Come on home, brother. We'll tell you more over DINNER.

Funeral Director: (Calling after Lazarus) I hope you realize I'm not giving you a REFUND on this funeral!



To Talk About

- ◆ Have you ever had someone close to you die? Why do you think having a loved one die hurts us so much?
- ◆ Jesus wept at the tomb of his good friend Lazarus. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus hurts for us when we hurt?
- ◆ How can we trust Jesus when we hurt?

Topical Tie-Ins: Death, Resurrection, Compassion