

The Son Of The Widow Of Nain

Luke 7:11-17

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 7:16

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A bag resembling a money pouch, a small house or picture of a house, and an apple or orange.

Several blankets.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Blanket Races

Have your class divide into two teams of 5 to 7 children. Have each team pick a "light weight" child to be the blanket passenger. Set a course around the room and have each team navigate the course carrying their passenger on the blanket in as little time as possible. Time each team's achievement. Congratulate the winners.

LESSON TIME!

One day Jesus spoke with Martha concerning the resurrection, the raising of the dead. "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to Him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world'" (John 11:25-27).

Today we will read about Jesus performing a very special miracle. He is going to raise the son of a widow from the dead. Of all the miracles that Jesus did, raising people from the dead is probably the most amazing. It is amazing because it shows us several things. Jesus is God come in the flesh. He has power or authority over death. Not only can He heal people from disease or sickness but He can also raise them from the dead. **Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

If Jesus has power to raise people from the dead, does he have the power to give us eternal life? Absolutely yes! All we have to do is believe in Him. **Jesus is the resurrection and the life?** He has the power to give life or take it away. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He wants to give you eternal life today.

Let's look at our story for today and learn more about how Jesus raised the widow's son from the dead.

LUKE 7:11

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

It was the day after Jesus had healed the centurion's servant when He came to the city of Nain. The name of the city means,

“beautiful.” Notice that many of His disciples went with Him, and a great multitude went along also. At that time in Jesus’ 3 1/2 year ministry many people went with Him because He was popular. People liked being with Jesus because there was always a chance to see a miracle.

The crowds saw Jesus do amazing things. They saw Him heal people; He made the blind see and the lame walk. Sometimes Jesus would feed the entire crowd at the end of the day and everyone was invited. All these things were great, but some people were just coming along because they wanted a free meal. They were hanging out where the excitement was but had no real commitment to Jesus.

It is one thing to "go with" Jesus, and it is another thing to "follow" Him. To "follow" Jesus is to stay with Him, regardless of whether things are going good or bad. We need to follow Jesus, even when our friends are not willing to go with us. We have a choice to make. We can “hang out” with Jesus and His people at church but never choose to follow Him, or we can decide to put our trust in Him and follow Him completely. This is really what eternal life is all about. Everyone needs to make the choice to truly follow Him because **Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Follow the Leader

Choose a leader from the class and direct him to lead a line made up of part of your class. Tell the children that they must do exactly as the leader does.

Follow at the end of the line, but do not do as the leader does. Pick a few leaders and a few groups to follow; continue until every one has had a chance. Each time a group starts, follow after a group, disregarding what the leader is doing.

Explain to the class that all of the other students were "following" the leader, but you were "going with" the leader. Ask them to respond with their observations.

LUKE 7:12-13

And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

When a person died in biblical times, there was an immediate time of wailing and lamenting for that person. The reason such large crowds would follow was to show respect to the family members. Sometimes wealthy families would even hire groups of professional mourners who would add to those who were wailing.

The burial had to take place quickly because of the hot climate, which led to rapid decomposition. The body was washed, wrapped in cloth, and put into a coffin or on a wooden stretcher. It was at this time that Jesus approached the town entrance and saw the dead man being carried away for burial. Jesus noticed the widow; He knew that this was her only son. Does anyone know what a widow is?

A widow is a woman whose husband has died. To be a widow in Jesus' day was a very real problem because it meant that a family's name would cease and their land and possessions would pass on to others. It could also be a great threat to a young woman's future because she likely faced many years of widowhood without a protector or a provider. A child was the only means of financial security for a widow.

The Bible teaches that the first born son was to receive all the inheritance when the father passed away. In this particular case, this only son was the last one to hold the rights to his family's inheritance. If there were not any family members left to claim the inheritance, all the possessions, including land, houses, and livestock, would go to the closest relative.

We see God's heart so often reflected in the Bible towards widows and orphans. He commands His people to care for the widows and orphans. There are people today who cannot provide for themselves. As Christians, we need to care for them, pray for them and help out when and where we can.

Ancient Widow Skit

Pick four boys and one girl to be in your skit. Have one boy be the husband and the girl to be the wife. Have the other three boys represent the ancient Jewish culture.

Have the husband and wife stand together with the husband holding what looks like a money bag, a small house, and an apple. Direct the husband to go sit down and hand those things to the girl. Explain to the class that the husband has died and now the wife is a widow.

Have the second boy come and ask the girl where her husband is. Have the girl respond that he is dead. Have the second boy tell her that in that case she can no longer have her money. Have the girl give the money to the boy. Have the third boy ask the same and take the house and the fourth boy ask the same and take the apple. Thank all of the children and have them sit down. Explain to the class that an ancient widow had no rights and no one to protect her. A widow would be in danger of losing everything, especially one without any sons.

But Jesus is always there for us. He speaks comfort into our lives when it seems we are at the end of ourselves. He tells us not to cry because the Holy Spirit is our great Comforter. He tells us not to worry because He is in control; He loves us. This widow loved her son. Did you know that God loved her son more than she loved him? God loves you more than anyone else does, even your Mom and Dad.

Jesus felt compassion for this widow. The Bible says that Jesus was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief (Is. 53:3). Jesus was not sorrowful because people did not listen to Him, but Jesus was sorrowful because He made other people's sorrows His business. He sympathized with others when they were sad. Jesus knew the pain the widow was feeling and had compassion on her. John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." God knows what it is like to give up His Son to death.

LUKE 7:14-15

Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

Under the Law, touching anything dead made you unclean. Jesus did something that shocked those around Him. He touched the open coffin, and everyone stopped to see what was going to happen. **Jesus is the resurrection and the life**, and He can do anything, even raise someone from the dead. Would you stop to watch Jesus raise someone from the dead? I would!

According to Jewish custom, the funeral procession was done with an open coffin. Notice that Jesus gives a command to the widow's dead son, "Young man, I say to you, arise." Jesus gives life; the

Bible teaches that He was present with the Father at creation. In fact, the world was created through Him (Colossians 1:16). In Genesis, we read that God spoke the universe, the world, and everything in it into existence. All Jesus had to do was speak, and the widow's son was resurrected. And he immediately began speaking.

The Bible says that Jesus gave the young man back. Why do you think Jesus would have to give him back? Where was this young man? Jesus said that He holds the keys of Death and of Hades. This young man was held by Death itself, and Jesus set him free. **Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

Jesus raised this young man from the dead nearly two thousand years ago, but He said that if we put our trust in Him and His completed work on the cross, we would be saved eternally from death and hell. Have you believed in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

LUKE 7:16-17

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

The people were filled with wonder and amazement because Jesus did a miracle. He had raised a man from the dead. Only God can do a miracle like this.

Jesus brings joy and happiness into our lives, and our natural response is to praise Him. The widow was comforted that her son was raised from the dead. Are we happy and joyful that Jesus has given us the promise of everlasting life?

"Young man, I say to you, arise"

Have the class lie down on the floor motionless. Make sure that they do not move a muscle, acting as if they are really dead. Let them lay there long enough that it starts to feel a little uncomfortable.

Explain to them that when you say, "Young man, I say to you, arise," they are to sit up and start jumping. After a little while say, "Young man, I say to you, arise." Have the children get up and jump up and down to get all their wiggles out.

Explain to the children that the young man in the lesson could not raise himself up from the dead. He could only rise again in the power of Jesus' word. Explain to them that we are not physically dead, but we are spiritually dead. Explain that the only way we can rise up from that condition is at the word of Jesus. His word tells us that when we receive Him, we are born again, raised to newness of life!

It is amazing to think about what Jesus has done for us. Because of His willing sacrifice, we can have His Holy Spirit live inside of us. That makes us the sons and daughters of God. As sons and daughters of God, we share in Christ's inheritance, eternal life in heaven, where there is no more death, tears, or sorrows. It is this hope we look to as we place our faith in King Jesus. Finally, here is a verse you can remember as a great promise from God:

I PETER 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for Jesus' power over death, hell and the grave. Acknowledge that He is able to accomplish anything in our lives He wills to. If there are children who wish to receive Christ as Savior, pray with them too.