

SHARING the GOOD NEWS

Activity for Class
or Family

Jesus shared the people's sadness at Bethany where Lazarus died. Then Jesus did something about it. In so doing, he brought new life to all of them. How can you bring life to those around you? Here are some starter ideas:

1 Make a list of the people you know whose lives are deadened by sorrow, loneliness, or worry.

2 Assign each member of the class or family to be a life-giver to one or more of the people on your list.

3 Each person is responsible to find ways to bring new life to the person or people assigned. Small children can make drawings or pick a bouquet of flowers or just make a cheerful visit. Older children can bake a cake for a shut-in or run errands for a busy young parent. Adults can invite lonely neighbors over for a meal or dessert. What each person decides to do depends upon what is making each sad person feel blue.

4 Decide on a life-giving plan such as sponsoring a poor child through one of the Christian organizations or collecting food for a local charity.

5 Work together on a banner or poster. On it, use the quote in today's message from Jesus that you decoded in this *Good News Weekly*.

6 Celebrate together the joy of being able to be life-givers to others. Hang your poster, make a special meal, get some balloons, streamers, candles — anything to show that you live in the glow of God's life-giving love.

Kids Like You Give Life to Others!

B ARBARA Newman received the Life-Giver award for being a special friend. Barbara heard that one of her classmates was very unhappy. Everyone in the class talked about how this girl never smiled and hardly ever talked to anyone. Barbara spoke to the girl and found she was unhappy because she was about to fail math. Since Barbara is an A student in math, she invited her friend to come to her home each afternoon after school so they could study together. After six weeks of studying with Barbara, the classmate's math grade went from D to B-minus. The entire sixth grade noticed how much their classmate had changed. She smiles



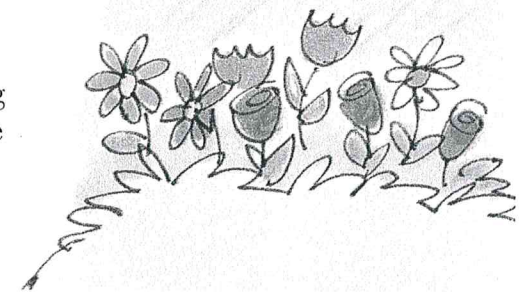
all the time and has truly come to life.

Congratulations, Barbara, for bringing new life to your friend.

S TEVEN Gaudier received the Life-Giver award for his kindness and consideration. Steve's elderly neighbor, Mrs. Voss, slipped and fell on some wet pavement one day. She broke her hip and had to stay in her house to recover for a long time. Steve missed waving to her every morning as she worked in her garden. She was so proud of her lovely yard. Steve's mother said Mrs. Voss was sad that her garden was being neglected while her hip was healing. Steve decided to go to her house on Saturday to help. Now, every Saturday, he mows the lawn, weeds the garden, and picks beautiful flowers to brighten her home. Steve's neighbor smiles as she sits at her window, surveying her yard. She is like a new woman.

Congratulations, Steve, for being so considerate and bringing new life to your neighbor.

These are wonderful stories of how anyone can bring new life to others. How about you? Will you be a life-giver this week?



THE GOOD NEWS

WEEKLY
Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27,
33b-45 • March 29, 2020

GOSPEL THEME

Jesus gives life,
and we can too.

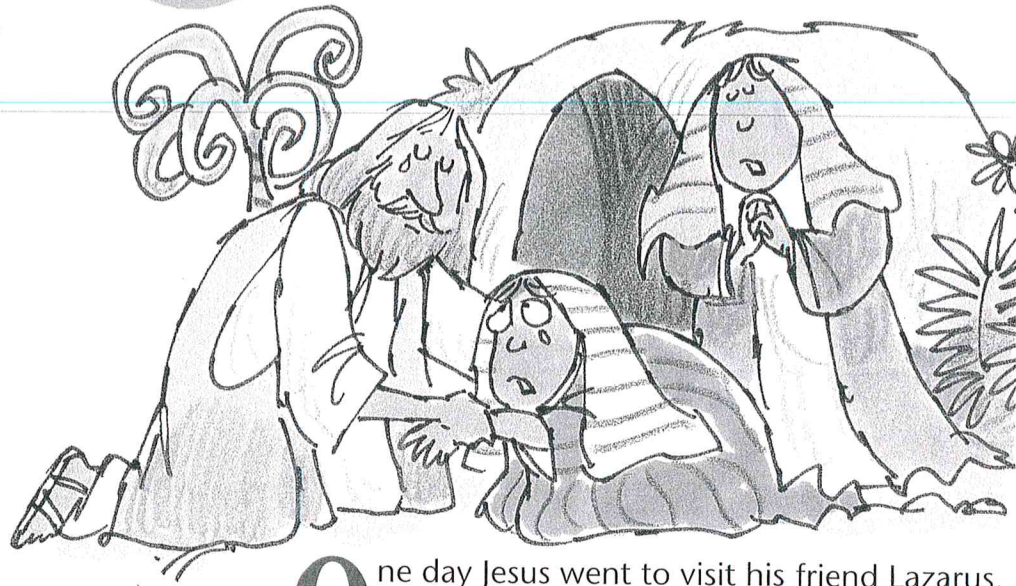
Think About It!

This is a sad story with a happy ending. Martha and Mary cried because the brother they loved had died. The people cried because their friend and neighbor was gone. But why did Jesus cry?

Jesus knew God would raise Lazarus from the dead if he asked. He knew that even if Lazarus did not rise, Lazarus would be happy in heaven. So why did Jesus cry?

Jesus cried because he cared about the sorrow of the others. Their sadness made him sad. Then Jesus did something wonderful—he brought Lazarus back to them. The people praised God and Jesus for this wonderful miracle. Lazarus wasn't the only one raised. Jesus brought new life to all the people when he took away their sorrow and their grief. You can imitate Jesus this week by finding ways to bring new life to the people around you.

What Made Jesus Cry?



One day Jesus went to visit his friend Lazarus, who had been very ill. When Jesus got there, Lazarus had died! Lazarus' sister, Martha, greeted Jesus. Her eyes were red and swollen from crying.

Martha said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.

Martha thought Jesus was talking about the day of resurrection for many people. She called her sister, Mary, and Jesus asked them to show him where Lazarus was buried.

Mary also said, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would never have died." Then she began to cry. When Jesus saw how sad she was, he cried too.

The sister took Jesus to where Lazarus was buried. Jesus prayed and then shouted, "Lazarus, come out!" Suddenly, Lazarus rose from the dead!

a Secret Message of Love From Jesus

With the following message, Jesus comforts those whose loved ones have died. Use the key to decode his loving message.



8 1 10 15 7 5

13 5 14 16 13 13 5 3 15 8 12 11 1 11 4

15 7 5 9 8 6 5 18 7 12 5 17 5 13

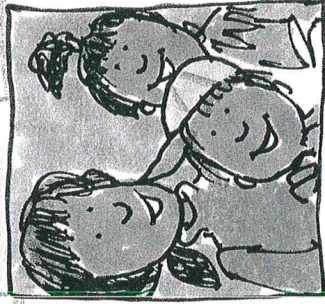
2 5 9 8 5 17 5 14 8 11 10 5 18 8 9 9

11 5 17 5 13 4 8 5

Key

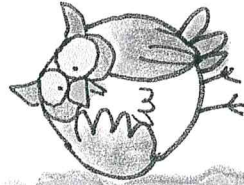
1 = A; 2 = B; 3 = C; 4 = D; 5 = E; 6 = F; 7 = H; 8 = I; 9 = L; 10 = M;
11 = N; 12 = O; 13 = R; 14 = S; 15 = T; 16 = U; 17 = V; 18 = W.

Family Page



Is your home ready for Jesus? Is it a welcoming place like the home of Martha and Mary? Gather as a family to answer the following questions.

- 1** How do you feel when visitors arrive unannounced? Is it an inconvenience and exasperating? Or are they welcomed with enthusiasm?
- 2** Is everyone in the family involved when a visitor arrives?
- 3** Do the children feel comfortable with friends of the parents? Are they willing to share their toys and games with their own friends?
- 4** Do the parents welcome the friends of their children?
- 5** After you have answered all of these questions, draw up a list of ways in which you can make your home and your family more welcoming.



A Jesus Prayer To Learn and Say

In the prayer that Jesus said before he raised Lazarus from the tomb (John 11:41), he told the Father he wanted the crowd to believe in him. You can say this prayer too, for by your kindness to others, you are helping them to believe that Jesus is truly a loving friend. Learn and say the following prayer often.

Father, I thank you for hearing me.
I know that you always hear me;
but because of the crowd here I have
said this, that they may believe that
you sent me.

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3 BIBLE
1: NA04
2: ROSAN BEADS
3: STATUE
4: CHURCH
5: CROSS
6: MONASTERY
7: ALTAR
8: MONASTERY
9: ALTAR
10: MONASTERY
11: ALTAR
12: MONASTERY
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16: MONASTERY

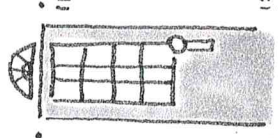
explaining GOD'S WORD

Sunday of Lent (A) • John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 • March 29, 2020



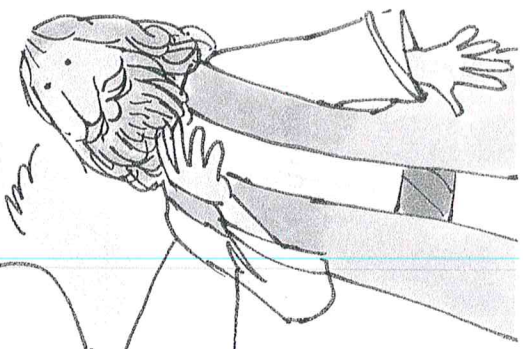
5 • 8 • 9

12



10

16



Jesus Is a Loving Friend

Jesus is coming to your house to visit. Are you ready to greet him with love? Follow the dots so Jesus can find your home.

Jesus Cares for His Friends

What is a friend? A friend is someone wonderful to know and someone beautiful to be. A friend is someone to talk to, someone to play with, someone who REALLY CARES!

Mary and Martha and Lazarus were Jesus' friends. Whenever Jesus was in Bethany, he would stop and visit them.

In today's gospel story, Jesus goes to Bethany and finds that Lazarus has just died. Mary and Martha are very sad. When Jesus sees them crying, their unhappiness makes him sad too.

Then the Son of God takes the sorrow of the people into his own heart — and Jesus cries!

Then Jesus calls Lazarus from the tomb, and the man who was dead lives again.

Never forget how much Jesus cares. He is by your side when you are sad, and will always be your loving friend.

Picture Crossword

Jesus is your best friend. The pictures below are signs of your friendship with God's Son. Can you fit the words into the crossword house?

