

This week our Gospel tells the story of when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, showing God's power over death, and preparing us for Jesus' own death and resurrection. Let us take comfort in the fact that, though we suffer sorrow and loss, Jesus weeps with us and remains with us, and has won for us eternal life.

Lazarus Paper Doll

This paper doll can be used to illustrate the Bible lesson.



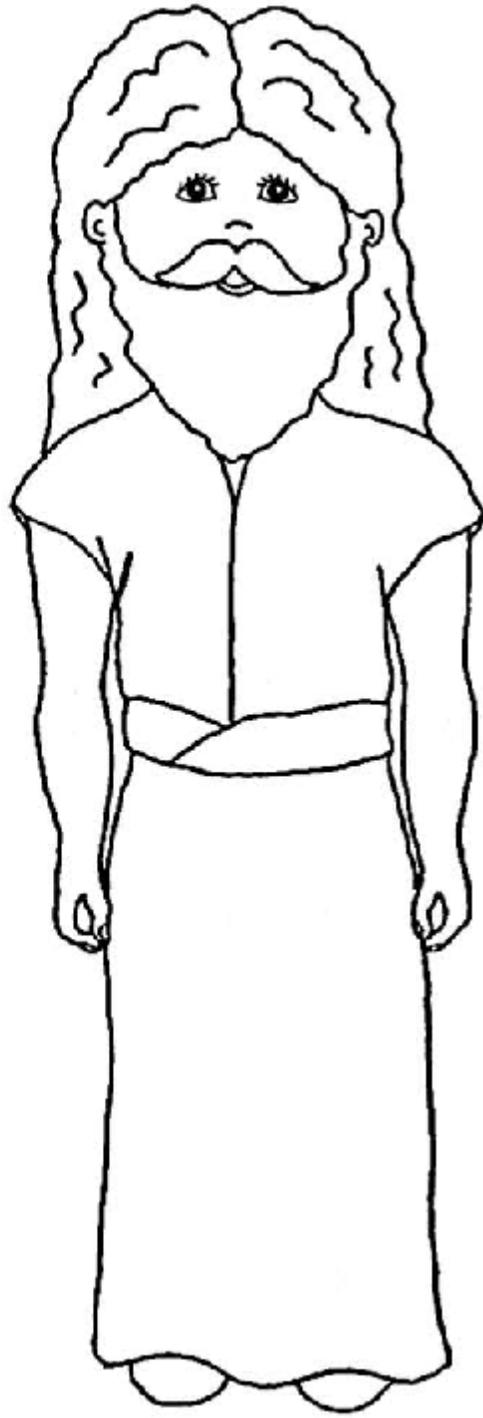
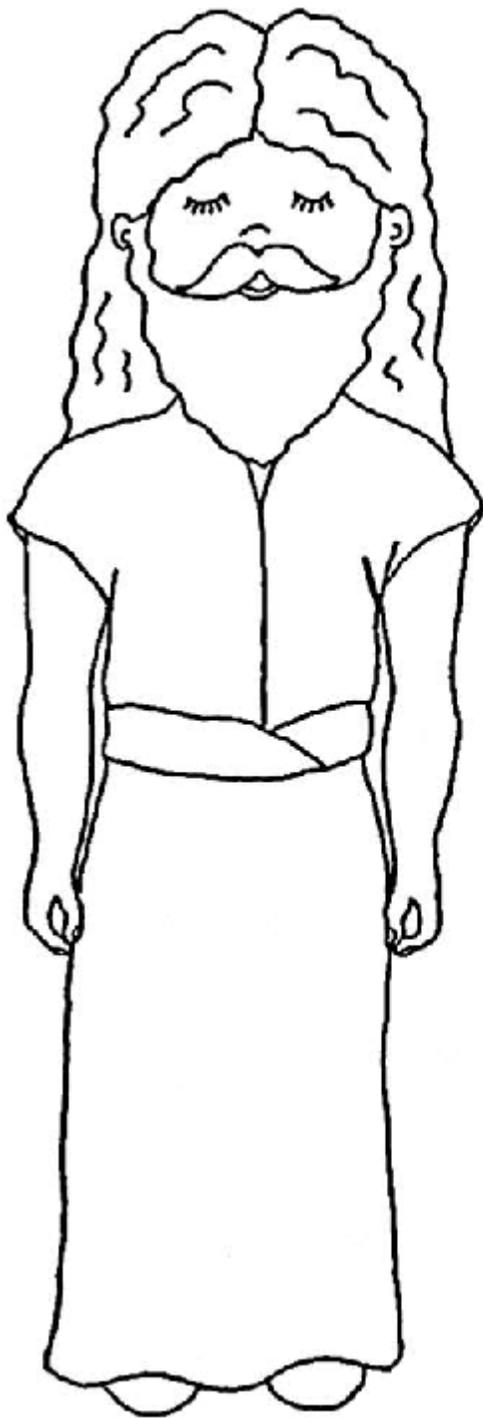
What you will need:

Card Stock (Heavy Paper), Scissors, Crayons or Colored Pencils, Paper Glue

Strips of White Material (or paper towel/napkins – if you can spare them!!!)

How to make:

1. Print out the paper doll patterns and loosely cut them out. (they're on the next page)
2. Glue the patterns together on the white sides so that when you turn the paper doll over you see a different view of Lazarus.
3. Tape strips of material around the paper doll.



The Lesson

Prepare a Lazarus paper doll (above). Also make a sign that says, "Boohoo" on one side and "Praise God!" on the other. Use a large bowl for a tomb to cover Lazarus.

Tell your children to say, "Boohoo" when you hold up the sign that says, "Boohoo" and to say, "Praise the Lord" when you hold up the sign that says, "Praise the Lord".

Then tell the Gospel story:

Lazarus was very sick. (Boohoo). *(Place your Lazarus paper doll on the table with the "eyes closed" side up.)*

Lazarus was so sick (Boohoo) that Mary and Martha were afraid he would die. They sent a message to Jesus that said, "Come as quick as you can, your beloved Lazarus is very sick and may die." (Boohoo)

When Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick (Boohoo) he said, "His sickness and death will glorify God." He meant that his sickness would show how great God really was. Jesus didn't leave right away. He waited two days before he left because he knew that God had a plan. (Boohoo)

In the mean time Lazarus died. (Boohoo) His body was wrapped in long pieces of cloth and placed in a tomb. *(Wrap your Lazarus paper doll in cloth, but don't show your children the "eyes opened" side of the paper doll. Place the paper doll under the bowl. You can explain to your children that they used caves or tombs that were carved out of rocks to bury people in those days.)*

When Jesus finally arrived, he learned that Lazarus had been dead for four whole days. (Boohoo)

Mary and Martha were crying. (Boohoo) They told Jesus that if he had been there sooner Lazarus wouldn't have died. When Jesus saw how sad everyone was and heard the mourners and saw Mary and Martha crying, he felt really bad for them and also cried. (Boohoo) He asked them where they had buried Lazarus; and they took him to the tomb.

When he got there he was deeply moved. Jesus commanded, "Take away the stone."

But Martha was worried. She said, "Lord, if you take away the stone, it will smell really bad. Lazarus has been dead for four whole days." (Boohoo)

But Jesus said, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed, you would see how great God is?"

So they rolled away the stone. And Jesus yelled, "Lazarus, come out!" *(Remove the bowl.)* Lazarus came out of the tomb! *(Show the side of Lazarus with open eyes.)* He was still wearing the grave clothes he was buried in. (Praise the Lord!)

Now everyone that saw what Jesus had done knew that he was the Son of God. (Praise the Lord!) Jesus proved who he was by raising Lazarus from the dead. And it wouldn't be long before he himself would die and come back to life again. (Praise the Lord!)

Prayer

Father, we thank you for sending Jesus, your only son, to die for us. We praise you because we know that he overcame death, and someday we will go to live with him forever. Amen.