

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, **we want YOU to be the one to introduce** this part of The Big God Story to them.

For additional support in spiritual parenting and to learn more about creating transforming environments in your home, be sure to pick up **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** from your church or download at HomeFrontMag.com. You can also access the HomeFront app for your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



3.4



Jesus Is Life

Part of The Big God Story
John 11:1-45
Lazarus Brought Back to Life

JUST FOR FUN

Death and dying are difficult concepts for young children, but they're also a very real part of our lives. One night this week, begin a conversation about this with your children. Discuss their fears and ask if they know what happens when a person dies. Tell them you're going to read a true story about Jesus, and what happened when one of His friends died. Then read **John 11:1-44**. Explain to your children that Jesus is life and because of Him, we don't have to worry or be afraid. We can live with Him forever.

Did You Know?

- Jesus' entire ministry was life-giving.
- Jesus received word of Lazarus' extreme illness and purposely delayed His return to Bethany. He proclaimed Lazarus' sickness would not end in death, but instead be used for "God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it" (John 11:4).
- Raising Lazarus was a precursor to Jesus' own resurrection. Jesus demonstrated His power over death. He is the resurrection and the life.

Preschoolers have limited understanding of death and often view it as temporary. Because they're concrete thinkers, when talking about death it's important to avoid euphemisms like, "he has gone to sleep," or "he passed away," which can actually cause more fear than understanding. Instead use concrete language like, "He has died and will no longer be with us."

Teachable Moments

After reading John 11:1-44, discuss the following together:

- What happened when Jesus went to visit his friend Lazarus, who had died?
- Who can we turn to when we're worried or afraid?
- What does Jesus promise us if we believe in Him?

Remember Verse

As the Father has loved me,
so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love.
John 15:9

Blessing

For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource**.

A blessing to pray over your child:

(Child's name), may you know that Jesus is life. May you believe He made the way for us to be with Him forever.