

3RD, 4TH, & 5TH GRADE

WEEK 1 - APRIL 3, 2022

OKIDS

KEY QUESTION: HOW DO YOU REACT WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN? We can't escape bad things happening in our lives. We will all face difficult moments in life, and we can respond to them in various ways. We want kids to identify the way they react in these moments and figure out a plan for finding hope, responding well, and trusting God no matter what is happening in their lives. We focus today on friends of Jesus who had lost all hope. John records an incredible moment that we find in **John 11:1-45**. When Lazarus died, Jesus used the opportunity to point people to God. Jesus was stronger than even death itself and raised Lazarus back to life four days after death.

ACTIVITY #1 - VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU

What You Need: Bibles, Paper, Pens

1. Look up John 16:33b then ask kids to write the verse on their sheet of paper.
2. When finished writing, ask:
 - What are two promises you read in this verse?
 - What is one command you read in this verse?
 - How is this verse helpful when something happens that you didn't want to happen or when you're face a problem that feels too big to handle?
3. Turn the paper over and ask kids to write a quick description of a problem or situation they are in that feels big, difficult, or scary.
4. Give opportunity for those who are comfortable doing so to share what they wrote.
5. Invite kids to estimate how many times they think they can fold the paper in half before it becomes too thick to bend.
6. Begin folding the paper one-fold at a time and saying the verse together after each one. (*The limit is usually seven folds.*)
7. Take a minute to acknowledge those who came closest in the estimate they made about the number of folds they could make in their paper.

8. Ask:

- With each fold, the paper became stronger. How do each of our problems make us stronger?
- The problem you wrote down was wrapped tightly in the folded paper. How is that sort of like God's power over your problems?
- How does that give you hope?

9. Challenge kids to keep John 16:33b in mind this week. Suggest that they keep the folded paper in a pocket or bookbag as a reminder that a very powerful God is with them through whatever they go through this week.



PUZZLED

BELIEVE
THERE'S
A BIGGER
PICTURE

**MORE ACTIVITIES ARE ON
THE BACK OF THIS PAGE!**

ACTIVITY #2 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask the group:

- What is something good that you have learned from going through a hard or difficult time?
- What would you never learn if you could snap your fingers or say a special prayer and solve any problem in exactly the way you wanted?
- How did Lazarus, Mary, and Martha experience hope in today's story?
- Where do you go to find hope?
- How would you explain hope to someone?

ACTIVITY #3 - MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

What You Need: Bible

1. Read aloud Psalm 147:5 pausing to invite kids to repeat what you read as a personal prayer.
2. Allow a brief moment after each pause for kids to reflect on or pray a sentence prayer aloud.

Prayer:

"Dear God, we praise You for Your power. Thank You for the promise to help us when we face problems and struggles. We know that life can bring discouragement and disappointment, but we also know that YOU are bigger than any trouble we face. If You can raise Lazarus from the dead, we know that nothing is too hard for You. Help us to trust you no matter what and call on You when we have problems at home, school, with friends, or anything that is bothering us right now. Thank You for loving us and giving us hope. In Jesus, name, amen."

