

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 23
The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord performed miracles for two reasons: to strengthen the faith of those who wanted to believe in Him, and the sake of the Word.
- B. All life comes from the Lord, and all healing power is in Him.
- C. The Lord always decides when it is time for us to leave this world.
- D. None of us ever really dies. When we go to sleep for the last time, the Lord wakes us up in the other world.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. We've been learning about several miracles the Lord did while He was on earth. Do you remember what a miracle is? (A wonderful thing that the Lord does to teach us a spiritual lesson)
- 2. Do you remember two stories we've studied this year about the Lord's bringing people back to life? (Raising the son of the widow of Nain [Lesson #15] and raising Jairus' daughter [Lesson #173]). In today's lesson, the Lord is going to bring back to life a man named Lazarus who had been dead for four days!
- 3. Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha. These three people loved the Lord and believed in Him. And He loved them.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud the following summary of John 11:1-37 (on the next page).
- 2. Then read aloud John 11:38-45.

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The Raising of Lazarus

Mary and Martha had a brother named Lazarus who was sick, so they sent a message to the Lord to let Him know. The Lord was with His disciples in a different town.

But Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. Then He said to His disciples, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him." When Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha went to meet Him and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus answered, "Your brother will rise again," but Martha thought Jesus meant that Lazarus would wake up in heaven. Then Mary came to meet Jesus, and she said, weeping, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus asked where Lazarus was laid, and He wept when they showed Him. Some of the people standing around said, "Couldn't this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Who became sick and later died? (Lazarus) Who were his sisters? (Mary and Martha)
2. What did Mary and Martha do when Lazarus became sick? (They sent a message to the Lord.)
3. Jesus waited a while before He went to Lazarus. Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days when Jesus finally came to Bethany. Why did He wait so long? (To show the disciples and others how great His power was so they would believe that He was the Lord God of heaven and earth.)
4. Martha met the Lord on His way to her home. What did she say to Him? ("Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." She knew the Lord could heal the sick.)
5. What did the Lord tell Martha? ("Your brother will rise again.")
6. What did Martha think the Lord meant? (That Lazarus would wake up in heaven)
7. The Lord went to Lazarus' tomb, which was a cave with a stone against the opening. What did He do? (He said, "Take away the stone," and He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!")
8. What happened? (Lazarus came out wrapped in his grave clothes.)
9. What did people think about this miracle? (It made many of them believe in Jesus.)

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D. Further Ideas

1. We don't need to be afraid of dying because we know that then we will go to heaven, and heaven is a wonderful place, much more beautiful and happy a place than this earth. It's okay to be sad when someone we know and love dies because we will miss them.
2. We should remember that the Lord decides when we should leave this world. He knows exactly what is best for everyone. Including the time when they should leave this world and go to the next one.
3. We've talked before about miracles that Jesus did while He was on earth. Did He ever perform miracles for people who didn't believe in Him or who didn't want Him to? (No) He always helped the people who believed He had the power to help them and who wanted His help. Mary and Martha knew Jesus had the power to heal their brother, and they asked for His help. But He didn't come, so Lazarus died.
4. Do you think that Jesus made a mistake when He came too late to save Lazarus' life? No! He knew just what He was doing! He told His disciples, "I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe." What do you think He meant by that? (Only God has power over life and death. Jesus planned to bring Lazarus back to life while everyone watched so they would believe that He was the Lord God of heaven and earth, the only Person who can control when we live and when we die.)
5. Just as Mary and Martha asked the Lord for help when they needed it, we must ask the Lord for help when we need it. But He may surprise us, like He surprised Mary and Martha. He may not do for us what we want and expect Him to do. Just as He did not heal Lazarus while he was sick, and that was what Mary and Martha wanted and expected. The Lord had something much more wonderful in mind for them, and He often has something much more wonderful in mind for us than the thing we ask for!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "See the Savior in the temple," HYMNAL #166.
2. "When He cometh," HYMNAL #150.
3. "Waking in heaven," LORI'S SONGS FROM THE WORD II. (You could play this for children to listen to during project time.)

B. Activities

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C. Project

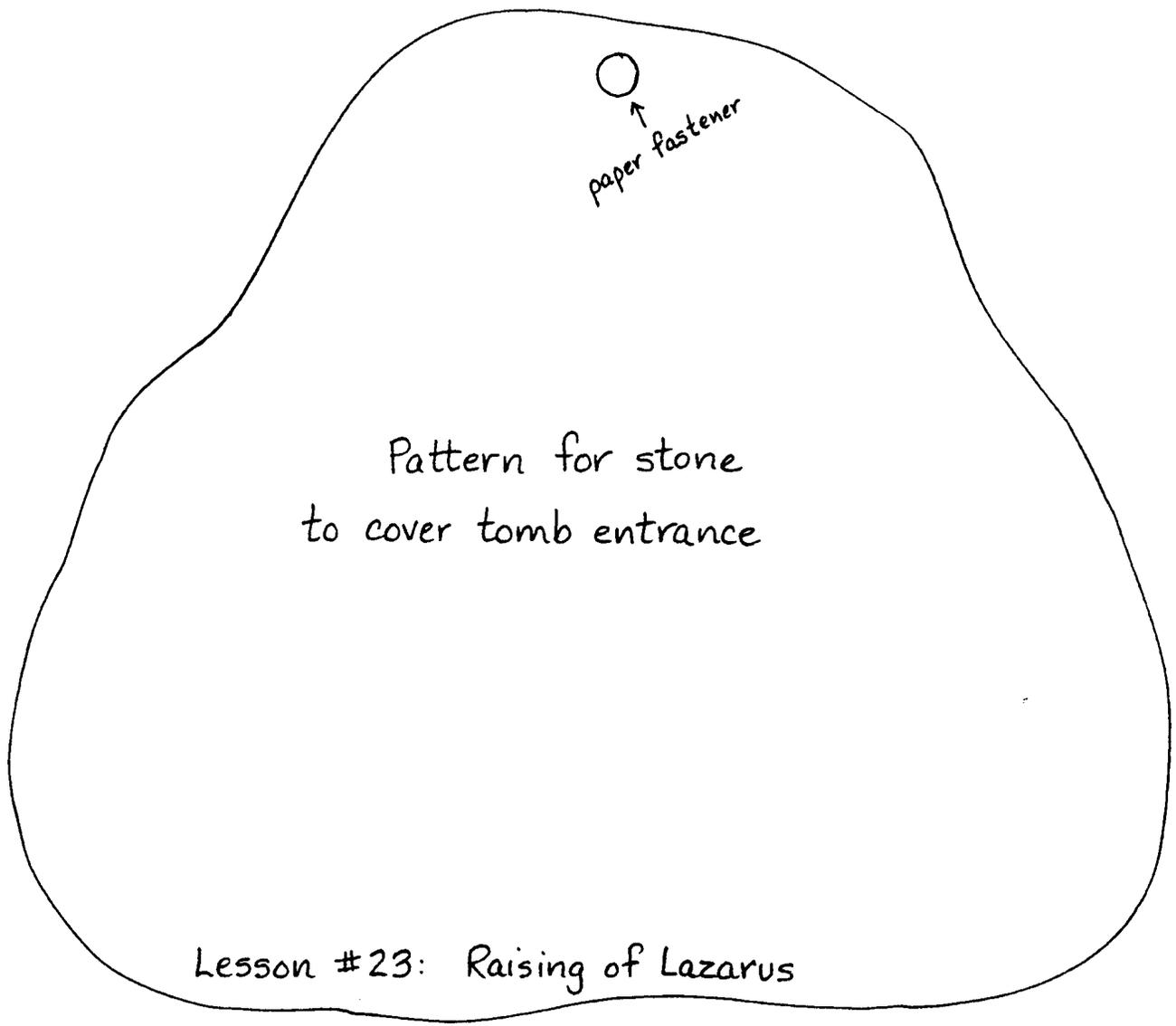
1. "LAZARUS, COME FORTH!" Trace a tomb and a stone for each child on gray construction paper (patterns attached). In class, provide each child with a 5" x 3 1/2" piece of white paper on which to draw Lazarus in his grave clothes (which likely were white). Cut out Lazarus and glue him to the tomb. Place the stone on the tomb, and punch a hole near the top for a paper fastener. Fasten the stone to the tomb (thus "entombing" Lazarus). When Jesus calls to Lazarus, "Lazarus, come forth!" turn the stone up and away from the tomb to reveal Lazarus emerging. Glue a text slip to the stone: "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:45) Optional: Mount the tomb on a sheet of yellow or light green construction paper. Also optional: Draw Jesus on white paper, cut Him out, and glue Him to one side of the tomb, calling to Lazarus. Children can draw in trees, bushes, flowers, etc. if they choose.
2. A BUTTERFLY. A butterfly starts out as a caterpillar. Then it spends some time in a cocoon getting ready for its "real life" as a butterfly. You are like a butterfly. You start out living in this world, which is like your cocoon. This world is where you get ready for your "real life" in heaven. Make a butterfly of clothespins and waxed paper layers with melted crayon shavings in between. See project directions included in this volume, lesson 15.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of the Lord raising Lazarus from the dead.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 6, "The Raising of Lazarus" (John 11:1-16), pp. 110-124.
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. VI, John 11:17-46.



paper fastener

Pattern for stone
to cover tomb entrance

Lesson #23: Raising of Lazarus

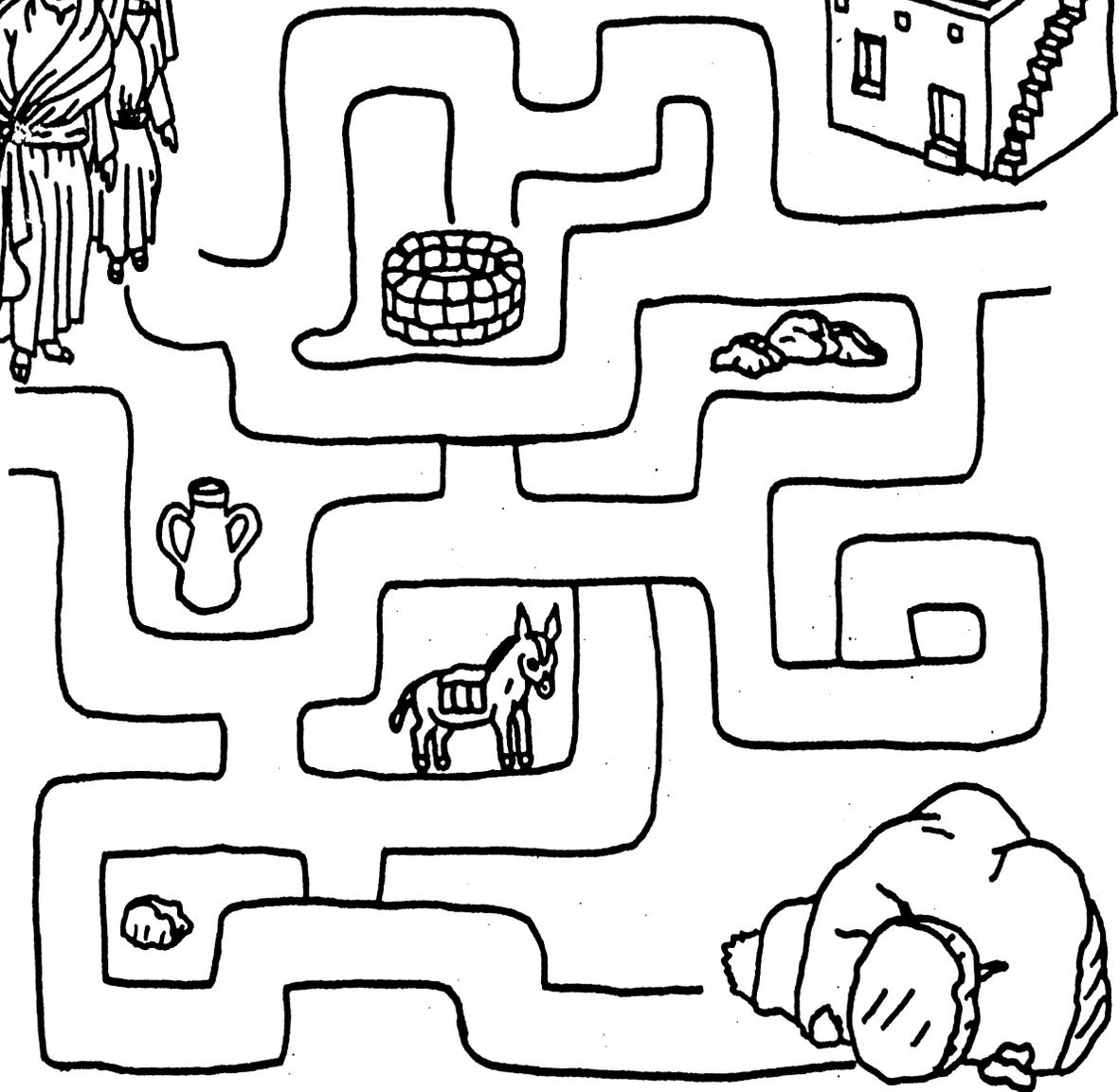
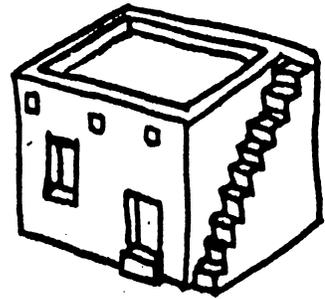
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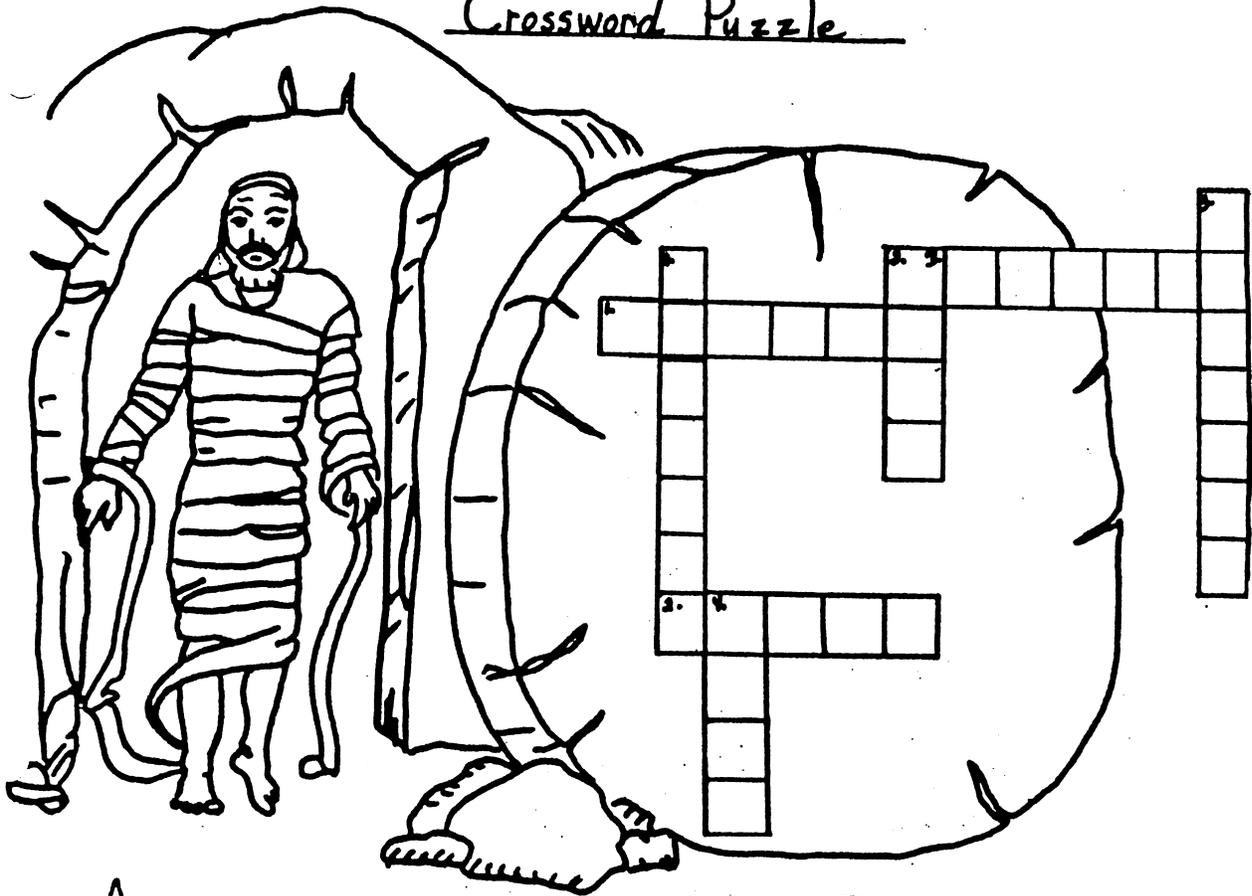
Pattern for tomb



Help Jesus, Mary, and Martha find the right path to Lazarus' tomb. Draw a line on the right path. Do not cross any lines. Color.



Crossword Puzzle



Across

1. One of Lazarus' sisters.
1. What was in front of the door of the tomb?
3. Jesus performed this when Lazarus rose from the dead.

Down

1. Who was Jesus' dead friend?
2. One of Lazarus' sisters.
3. The town where Lazarus lived.
4. The place where Lazarus was buried.

1. Mary Martha Lazarus stone tomb
2. Miracle Bethany