



Lazarus Raised

Lesson Overview

1. Conflict

2. Watch a Video

Watch John 11:1-54 at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from **1hr 30min 34sec** to **1hr 40min 20sec** (9min 46sec).

3. Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

New Church Concept Jesus Is God

It is evident that the Lord is God from eternity, and that this God is the selfsame Lord who was born in the world; for it is said that the Word was with God, and God was the Word, and also that without Him nothing was made that was made; and it is added that the Word was made flesh, and they beheld Him. See *Lord 1*

Jesus Wept

When 'weeping' is attributed to the Lord it represents Divine mercy. It is well known that weeping is an expression of grief and love. Consequently it also expresses mercy or pity, for mercy is love grieving. *Arcana Coelestia* 5480

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 22 | Gospel of John

Conflict

1. How would you define “conflict?” Give an example that supports your definition.
2. One definition of conflict might be, “a clash between two opposing perspectives.” Conflict actually comes from opposing *loves*—even if it takes the form of opposing ideas. Why might what we love bring us into conflict faster than what we think?
3. What conflicts did the Lord have while He was in the world?
4. Did the Lord draw Himself into conflicts? If so, why might He have done it?

Watch a Video

Watch John 11:1-54, Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead, from *The Life of Jesus . English . Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start at 1hr 30min 34sec.**
Watch to 1hr 40min 20sec; 9min 46sec.

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. Lazarus’s name means “God is my help.” He represents a quality in us that trusts in and waits patiently for God—our hope. What causes our hope in the Lord to sicken and seem to die?
2. Jesus knew Lazarus was sick but did not go to him for two days. Does it ever feel as if the Lord is “staying away” from you—from your thoughts or from your life? *Can* the Lord leave us? Why might it appear that He leaves?
3. Can we hold the Lord back from coming to us? If so, how?
4. At times we are absorbed by the natural world and “asleep” to spiritual reality. Jesus said, “I go that I might wake [Lazarus] up.” Are there times when the Lord wakes us from spiritual “slumber”? How does He do it?
5. Why was it dangerous for Jesus to go to Bethany—just two miles from Jerusalem?
6. Modern medicine can bring people back from the brink of death. But it cannot duplicate Jesus’ miracle. Lazarus was dead for four days. Martha warned he would stink. Why did Jesus wait so long to perform this miracle? How might the miracle have been different if Jesus had come sooner? What does this say about Jesus’ healing power in our lives? Is it ever too late for the Lord to save us?

7. Lazarus was healed because other people alerted Jesus to his sickness. Do we have a part in helping others find spiritual health?
8. Jesus called Himself “the water of life” (4:14), “the bread of life” (6:35), “the light of the world” (8:12), “the door of the sheep” (10:7), and “the good shepherd.” In this story He calls Himself “the resurrection and the life.” How does this change our picture of Jesus and His mission?
9. “Jesus wept” is the shortest verse in the Word. What does it say about Jesus? At what other times has Jesus shown emotion? What does this say about how much the Lord loves and cares for us?
10. Jesus ordered the stone removed so Lazarus could be healed. What blocks our access to the Lord? How can we remove it? (cf. Ezekiel 36:26: the Lord promises to remove a heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh.)
11. Lazarus came out of the tomb dressed in burial clothes. These clothes represent the false ideas and limiting beliefs we must remove before “trying on” new ideas. Why do we have to get rid of false ideas to gain new spiritual life?
12. What did Jesus raising of Lazarus reveal about Him? Why did this healing threaten the Jewish leaders?
13. After this amazing miracle many people believed in Jesus, so the Jewish leaders plotted to put Jesus *and* Lazarus to death. What “religious leaders” in us feel threatened by the revelation that the Lord gives life? How do these “leaders” attack new religious ideas in our lives?
14. Immediately after this, Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. What does it take for us to accept Jesus as Lord and King in our own lives?
15. How would a person who did not see Jesus as more than a charismatic person react to His claims to be God, the giver of spiritual life? In what ways does this describe our choice with regard to who the Lord is?

Summary taken from *The Gospel of John* by Rev. Dr. Ray Silverman

(unpublished manuscript)

The name “Lazarus” is from a combination of two Hebrew words meaning “God is my help.” It therefore stands for a quality in each of us that trusts in God, waits patiently for God, and knows that God is our help.... But the part of us that Lazarus represents does not always feel hopeful. This is the part of us that worries..., fears the worst, and doubts God’s presence. In times like this we forget that God is present and in control.... Instead we allow false ideas to infest our thinking and lead us downwards into discouragement and despair. In the language of Sacred Scripture this state is expressed by the brief sentence, “Lazarus is sick.”

The resurrection of Lazarus...is the resurrection of hope in each of our lives. There will be times when it feels as though all hope is gone. As the feelings of discouragement deepen, like a sickness worsening, we will come into states of deathlike despair. It is at these times that we come to realize that God has been with us all along, encouraging us to remove our hearts of stone, urging us to roll away from limiting beliefs, calling us by name, and freeing us from our grave clothes of despondency and desolation. He touches that place within each of us called “Lazarus”—the place of hope—and we rise again to meet the world with courage and conviction.

New Church Concept Removing Evil

Before a person can know what truth is, or be moved by good, the things that hinder and offer resistance must be removed. Thus the old self must die before the new one can be conceived. *Arcana Coelestia* 18

Resurrection

The words ‘This is the first resurrection,’ signify that salvation and eternal life is to worship the Lord, and live according to His commandments, because through that conjunction is effected with the Lord and consociation with the angels in heaven.... By “resurrection” is signified salvation and life eternal. By “the first” is not meant the first resurrection, but the first thing of resurrection,—salvation and life eternal. There is only one resurrection to life, a second is not given for people who are once conjoined with the Lord, are joined with Him for ever; and this in heaven, for the Lord says: I am the resurrection and the life; he that believes in Me, though he were dead, shall live; whoever lives and believes in Me shall not die to eternity (John 11:25, 26). See *Apocalypse Revealed* 851

Humility is the essential of all adoration and of all worship, for without humiliation the Lord cannot be worshiped and adored, for the reason that the Divine of the Lord cannot flow into a proud heart, that is, into a heart full of the love of self, for such a heart is hard; and is called in the Word a ‘heart of stone.’ But the Divine of the Lord can flow into a humble heart, because this is soft, and is called in the Word a ‘heart of flesh.’ *Arcana Coelestia* 9377