



## WEEK ONE – APRIL 2019

**Bible Story:** *You Raise Me Up* ▪ John 11:1–45

**Bottom Line:** *Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.*

**Key Question:** *How do you react when bad things happen?*

**Memory Verse:** *“In this world, you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.” – John 16:33b NIV*

**Life App:** *Hope – Believing that something good can come out of something bad*

**Basic Truth:** *I can trust God no matter what.*

**Summary:** We start the month with 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 he had died.

**Bottom Line:** *Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is. God can do amazing things in your life. We pray that kids will understand that when they face something difficult or hard to understand that they’ll find hope that God’s power can help us through whatever we face.*

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**9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 - KIDS ARRIVE**

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## Team Welcomes Kids *(Providing Time for Fun Interactions)*

"Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Jesus loves [child's name]"  
shout out the name

### 1. Early Arriver Idea

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** Random items in a box

**What You Do:**

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the *For Everyone* box on the wall near the main entrance

- Guide kids to gather around you. Set the box where every child can see it.
- Remove the cover and prompt kids to look carefully at the items.
- After a few seconds, replace the cover and guide kids to close their eyes. (No peeking!)
- When all eyes are closed, remove and hide one object.
- Tell kids to open their eyes.
- Lift the towel and challenge kids to identify the missing item.
  - *HINT: Guide kids to silently point to their noses, touch their ears, or give another sign when they identify the missing object. This will help ensure that every child has time to guess independently.*
- Repeat. Play as long as time remains.
- End by encouraging kids to identify what the objects have in common.

**What You Say:**

*[Transition] “Let’s go to Large Group where we’ll hear about someONE who’s more powerful than anything in the world!”*

*Lead your group to the Large Group area.*

**9:10-9:35 | 10:40-11:05 - LARGE GROUP**

*Bible Story – INTRO, Story, OUTRO Videos (whatever works best for your few)  
Worship SONGS*

**9:35-10:05 | 11:05-11:35 - SMALL GROUP**

**GROUPS**

*(Creating a Safe Place to Connect)*

**2. Finger–Piece Theater**

**[Bible Story Review]**

*Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through reenactment*

**What You Need:** Bible (John 11); “Finger Puppets” & “Lazarus and Tomb” Activity Pages, scissors, markers or crayons, tape

**What You Do:**

- Give each child a “Lazarus and Tomb.” Guide kids to cut out around the figures.
- Provide hand–over–hand assistance as necessary.
- Invite kids to color the figures.
- Give four volunteers the Mary, Martha, Jesus, and Crowd finger puppets and help them tape the puppets around their extended pointer and middle fingers. (See illustration on the Activity Page.)
- All of the remaining kids can play the part of Lazarus. Help them attach the Lazarus puppet to their pointer and middle fingers.

- Narrate the story while the kids “dramatize” with the puppets.
  - Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha, lived in Bethany. One day, Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus that their brother was very sick. Jesus said: “This sickness will not end in death” (John 11:4 NIV).
  - Jesus stayed where He was for two more days, and then He and His friends traveled to Bethany. When they arrived, they learned that Lazarus had died and had been in the tomb for four days.
  - Martha went out to meet Jesus. When she saw Him, she said: Lord, . . . I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died (John 11:21 NIV).
  - Jesus called for Mary, and when she came out, she also said: Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died (John 11:32 NIV).
  - Some people said: Couldn’t he have kept this man from dying? (John 11:37 NIV).
  - Mary, Martha, and Jesus came to the tomb—a cave with a stone in front. Jesus said to take away the stone. Martha said it would smell bad, but Jesus said: “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” (John 11:40 NIV) Jesus prayed to God and told Lazarus to come out, and Lazarus did!

### What You Say:

*“How do you think Mary and Martha felt when their brother died? How do you think they felt after they saw Lazarus walk out of the tomb? How would you have felt?”*

*“Sometimes things don’t go the way you expect. Think of Mary and Martha. They expected Jesus to heal their sick brother, Lazarus. But they expected Jesus to heal Lazarus BEFORE he died. So when Lazarus died, they thought Jesus was too late.*

*“But it turned out that God had a different plan—a better plan, a more AMAZING plan. A plan to show the world how powerful He is by bringing Lazarus back from the dead!”*

*“So **[Bottom Line]** whatever happens, remember how powerful God is. Remember that He loves you and that He can do more than you could ever imagine!”*

### 3. Pray and Dismiss

#### [Prayer Activity]

*Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** “GOOD out of BAD” Activity Page

#### What You Do:

- Position the “GOOD out of BAD” visual to display the word “BAD.”
- Hold it so all the kids can see, and invite them to read the word.
- Use the conversation below to lead kids into prayer.
- If time allows, pass around the visual and let each kid have a turn bringing “Good” out of “Bad.”

## What You Say:

*“Sometimes bad things happen, and we feel sad or angry or confused. But when we know God, we can have HOPE even when bad things happen. Hope is believing that something GOOD (pull the slide to reveal the word GOOD) can come out of something BAD.*

*“In today’s Bible story, what was something good that came out of something bad? (Jesus brought Lazarus back to life after he’d died; Jesus showed that He is powerful; Jesus showed that He is God when He brought Lazarus back to life.)*

*“Sometimes it’s hard to believe that good things can come out of bad things, like when your pet gets lost, someone’s in the hospital, or sad things are happening in your family. But **[Bottom Line] whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.** Remember that He can make something good come out of something bad. And remember that Jesus loves you more than you could ever imagine. Let’s pray.*

*“Dear God, You are powerful! You are more powerful than anything in the universe. Nothing is too hard for You. Thank You that You love us and that You work all things for good in our lives—even the things that make us feel sad or confused. Help us remember that You can always bring good things out of bad things. We love You, Lord. Amen.”*

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to say today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is. Also, don’t forget to hand out this month’s content overview to each parent!***