

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Whatever happens, remember  
how powerful God is.

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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

### HOST SUPPLIES

- Mystery Puzzles (slides)

### STORY SUPPLIES

- Two older girls
- Pre-selected Small Group Leader
- Tent (or play tent) with a door that zips
- Biblical-style headpieces for the girls playing Mary and Martha
- Fake beard, elastic bandage, and crutch for the leader playing Lazarus
- Saucepan, soup bowl, and spoon
- Small bottle that looks like medicine and a spoon
- Large white bed sheet
- Note of instructions to put inside the tent if you're not using a pre-selected leader

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver  
Opening Activity

### LARGE GROUP

**35**  
MIN

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- HAPPY APRIL
- HOPE
  - All month long, we will be focusing on the message of HOPE
  - HOPE: Believing that something good can come out of something bad
  - For HOSTS and COMMUNICATORS, please be ready to share your own stories of HOPE while
- EASTER INVITE CHALLENGE - VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENT

#### MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

**Week 1 - This Is Living & Graves Into Gardens**

Week 2 - Never Gonna Stop Singing & Way Maker

EASTER - TBD

Week 4 - Never Let Me Go (new) & The Blessing

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

# PUZZLED

Believe there's  
a bigger picture

WEEK  
**ONE**  
APRIL 2022

LARGE GROUP  
**K-3**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

## TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

**You Raise Me Up**  
Lazarus Raised  
John 11:1-45

## TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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## MONTHLY LIFE APP

Hope—Believing that  
something good can come  
out of something bad

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

## LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

## WORSHIP

*Worship Leaders enter*

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**AUDIO: THIS IS LIVING**

**AUDIO: GRAVES INTO GARDENS**

*Host enters.*

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME**

## OPENER

**HOST:** "Hey, everybody! I'm so pumped to be here today because we're talking about HOPE!"

**SLIDE: LIFE APP**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP**

**"Hope is believing that something good can come out of something bad.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME**

"All of us go through tough things from time to time. It's like we can only see one small piece of the puzzle . . . but God sees the bigger picture! So it's good to remember that God can make something good come out of even the most difficult situation.

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"Of course, the BIGGEST reason we can have hope is because Jesus died on the cross, then came back to life! That's why we'll celebrate Easter in just a couple of weeks! Actually, I thought we could start the celebration a little bit early with a fun Easter game. In just a minute, on the screen, we'll put together a puzzle, one piece at a time. Your job is to try to guess what the picture is before the puzzle is complete. Got it? *(Pause for response.)* Great—let's go!

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #1 SLIDES—ADD A NEW PUZZLE PIECE EVERY THREE OR FOUR SECONDS**  
**AUDIO: FUN SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "PLAY THE GAME" BY AARON WHEELER)**

*Advance the slides to add the pieces on screen, one at a time.*

*Host: Provide funny commentary as puzzle pieces are added. When you hear someone correctly guess the picture, call it out. ("Is it . . . an Easter basket?") When that happens, the tech team should skip ahead to reveal the finished puzzle. It's fine if you need to skip past several slides to do this.*

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #1 (FINISHED)**  
**AUDIO: CORRECT ANSWER DING**

*Note: We've provided enough puzzle slides for five different rounds, but feel free to do fewer than five if the game is taking a while or you're tight on time.*

*Optional: If you don't have access to the technology to put the puzzles on the screen, we've provided downloadable files that you can enlarge, print, and cut out to physically make the puzzles on stage.*

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #2 SLIDES—ADVANCING SLIDES TO ADD PIECES, AS BEFORE**  
**AUDIO: FUN SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "PLAY THE GAME" BY AARON WHEELER)**

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #2 (FINISHED)**  
**AUDIO: CORRECT ANSWER DING**

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #3 SLIDES—ADVANCING SLIDES TO ADD PIECES, AS BEFORE**  
**AUDIO: FUN SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "PLAY THE GAME" BY AARON WHEELER)**

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #3 (FINISHED)**  
**AUDIO: CORRECT ANSWER DING**

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #4 SLIDES—ADVANCING SLIDES TO ADD PIECES, AS BEFORE**  
**AUDIO: FUN SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "PLAY THE GAME" BY AARON WHEELER)**

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #4 (FINISHED)**  
**AUDIO: CORRECT ANSWER DING**

**SLIDES: PUZZLE #5 SLIDES—ADVANCING SLIDES TO ADD PIECES, AS BEFORE**  
**AUDIO: FUN SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC (SUGGESTION: "PLAY THE GAME" BY AARON WHEELER)**



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*SLIDES: PUZZLE #5 (FINISHED)*

*AUDIO: CORRECT ANSWER DING*

*SLIDE: THEME*

*OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP*

"That was so fun! I'm in the Easter mood already. How about you?"

"We have so much to celebrate this month. And it's all because of our God who gives us the kind of HOPE we can truly depend on. **[Basic Truth] We can trust God no matter what!**

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## BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Storyteller enters*

### SETTING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "Hi, everyone! (*Hold up Bible.*) I love it when we look at different stories from the Bible, because these stories always fill me with hope. They remind me that God is powerful, and that God can bring something good out of something bad.

"That was certainly true about Jesus when He lived here on Earth. Wherever Jesus went, people followed. They were curious about who Jesus was, and they wanted to hear what He had to say.

"Today, we're looking at what happened with Jesus and His close friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were sisters and brother. Jesus often stayed with them in their town, Bethany, which was two miles outside of Jerusalem.

"The last time Jesus had been in Jerusalem, the religious leaders were angry because they didn't believe that Jesus was the Son of God. In fact, they picked up stones and threatened to KILL Jesus. But Jesus and His friends left town and crossed the Jordan River.

"Before we get too far into the story, I'd love to have your help to tell it. Let's see . . . we need some actors to play Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.

*Choose two older girls to play Mary and Martha. Give them headpieces to wear.*

*Choose an adult leader to play Lazarus. Give him a fake beard to wear.*

"Okay, we're all set! Let's keep going with the story."

### LAZARUS IS SICK

**STORYTELLER:** "While Jesus and His disciples were gone, Lazarus got very sick.

*Wrap an elastic bandage around Lazarus's head. Give him a crutch to lean on and cue him to go into the tent. (The tent should be open so the audience can still see him.)*

"Mary and Martha were doing everything they could to take care of Lazarus. We don't know exactly what they did to take care of him; but maybe they took him some soup to eat.

*Give Mary and Martha a saucepan, bowl, and spoon. Have them hand the items to Lazarus in the tent.*

"Maybe they gave him some medicine.

*Give Mary and Martha a small bottle of medicine and a spoon. Have them hand the items to Lazarus in the tent.*



25 MINUTES

"Maybe they sang him a song to try to make him feel better.

*Pause to see if Mary and Martha will sing a song to Lazarus. If they don't, just act like they did ("That was beautiful!").*

"Unfortunately, no matter what Mary and Martha did, Lazarus did not get better. So Mary and Martha sent a messenger to tell Jesus what was happening and ask Him if He would come heal Lazarus.

"Listen to what Jesus said when He heard their message.

*Open the Bible to John 11:4 (NIRV) and read.*

*"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory. God's Son will receive glory because of it.*

"When Jesus said, 'God's Son,' He was talking about Himself. He was saying that what happened to Lazarus was all part of God's good plan.

"Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. And during that time . . . Lazarus died.

*Zip the tent closed with Lazarus inside. (Play this straight—not for laughs.)*

"After two days, Jesus told the disciples that they should go see Lazarus. Let me read you the conversation Jesus had with His disciples.

*Open the Bible to John 11:11-15 (NIRV) and read.*

*"Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,' [Jesus] said. 'But I am going there to wake him up.'*

*"His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get better.'*

*"Jesus had been speaking about the death of Lazarus. But his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your benefit, I am glad I was not there. Now you will believe. But let us go to him.'"*

### **JESUS, MARTHA, AND MARY**

**STORYTELLER:** "When Jesus arrived (*walk to the tent*), Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. People had come to comfort Mary and Martha. (*to audience*) You are the people who came to comfort Mary and Martha. Can you make really sad faces and say, 'I'm so sorry?'"

**AUDIENCE:** "I'm so sorry."

**STORYTELLER:** "Good job. When Jesus arrived, Martha went out to meet Him.

*Cue Martha to walk toward you.*

She said . . .

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*Open the Bible to John 11:21-22 (NirV) and read.*

*"Lord . . . I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you anything you ask for.*

*"Jesus told her that her brother would rise again. He said . . .*

*Open the Bible to John 11:25-26 (NirV) and read.*

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even if they die. And whoever lives by believing in me will never die.*

*"Martha went back home, and she told her sister Mary that Jesus was asking for her.*

*Cue Martha to walk toward Mary and cue Mary to walk toward you.*

*"Mary fell down at Jesus' feet and said . . .*

*Open the Bible to John 11:32 (NirV) and read.*

*"Lord, I wish you had been here! Then my brother would not have died.*

*"Jesus was very sad. He asked where they had put Lazarus. And then . . . He cried. But some of the people were confused. If Jesus was the Son of God, couldn't He have kept Lazarus from dying?"*

## HE'S ALIVE!

**STORYTELLER:** *"Jesus came to the tomb and told them to take away the stone. Martha spoke up. (Nod toward Martha.) She was afraid there would be a bad smell because Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days at that point. But Jesus said . . .*

*Open the Bible to John 11:40 (NirV) and read.*

*"Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?"*

*"Then Jesus prayed and called, 'Lazarus, come out!' (John 11:43, NirV)*

*Open the tent. Cue Lazarus to come out, wrapped in a white sheet over his clothes and face like bandages.*

*"Lazarus came out, wrapped with strips of linen and with a cloth around his face. Jesus told the people to take off the clothes he was buried in and let him go. Lazarus was ALIVE . . . and everyone was filled with joy and amazement!*

*Look at the three volunteers and clear your throat.*

*"Everyone was filled with joy and amazement!*

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*Let the three of them celebrate.*

*(to audience)* "Let's give our actors a big round of applause. *(to volunteers)* Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, thank you for your help!"

*Dismiss the three volunteers to their seats.*

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** "It was a miracle. Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life! Many of the people who had come to comfort Mary and Martha saw the incredible thing Jesus had done. These people had started their day in sadness and heartbreak because they had lost their friend. But they ended the day celebrating that their friend, Lazarus, was alive again! Jesus had done the impossible—and they had seen it. And so they believed in Him.

"We can find hope when WE face tough situations in life. We just need to remember that God is with us, and that God is POWERFUL. We can choose to believe that God can bring something good out of something bad.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**"Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**

"Let's pray."

**SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND**

## PRAY

**STORYTELLER:** "Dear God, You are so powerful! You can do ANYTHING. It's amazing to hear how Jesus used Your power to bring Lazarus back to life. Help us remember that You can do things that seem impossible. Help us remember that **[Basic Truth] we can trust You no matter what** and because of You, we can have hope in any situation. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."





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25 MINUTES

## CLOSER

*Host enters as Storyteller exits.*

**HOST:** “Wow! What a story! It’s so good to remember that God is more powerful than anything—even death! When Lazarus died, it wasn’t the end. After four days, Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead, through God’s power. Because of that, we can know just how powerful God is. God can make something good come out of something bad.

**SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE**

**“Whatever happens, remember how powerful God is.**

“Sometimes things in life don’t happen the way you think they should . . . and it just doesn’t make sense. You might feel like you’re stuck—like you can only see one piece of a big puzzle. You may not understand exactly how God is working in your life. When you find yourself in one of those tough times, it’s important to remember that God is with you, God is powerful, and God can see the bigger picture of what’s happening in your life.

“Listen to these words of hope that Jesus said to His disciples not long before He died on the cross for our sins. This is our memory verse for this month, John 16:33.

**SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE**

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

“You see, Jesus knew that His friends would have trouble and that we would, too. He knew that we would need hope. We can always remember that Jesus loves us and that He is with us through any challenges we might face.

“Let’s head to Small Group and talk about that some more. I’ll see you later!”

*Dismiss kids to their small groups.*

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**