

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

16 JULY 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

Hello...

I hope you've had a good week. Have you been able to meet up with any of your friends yet? I went to see my friend and we had a cup of tea in her garden. It was a happy time. We made sure that we didn't get too close.

Love Jackie

In this week's Bible story, we meet some of Jesus' friends and learn about another amazing miracle which shows us the glory of God.

The little town of Bethany is less than 2 miles from the big city of Jerusalem. Jesus had some very good friends who lived in Bethany. These were Lazarus who lived with his sisters Mary and Martha. Jesus would often go to visit them for a meal and sometimes had a sleep over. He was always made very welcome. The Bible says that they all loved each other, they were special friends.

One time Lazarus was very ill and he didn't seem to be getting any better. His sisters Mary and Martha were worried and sad, so they sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, the one who you love, our brother, is very sick."

When Jesus heard the news, he said to his disciples, this illness will not end in death, it has happened so that God can show us his glory.

Jesus didn't hurry to see Lazarus but stayed where he was for 2 more days. This may seem strange to us, but Jesus knew exactly what he was going to do.

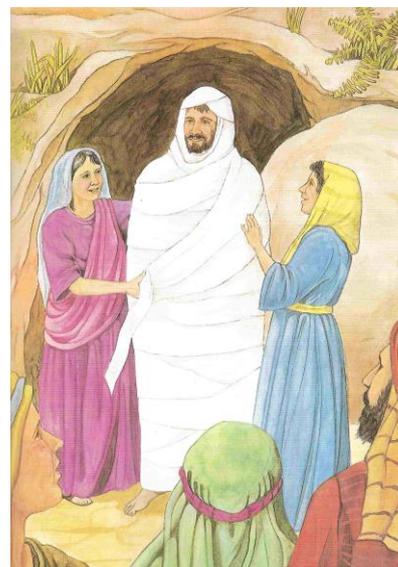
After 2 days, Jesus told his disciples that Lazarus had died, but he said, "Let's go to him." Remember Jesus knows all things and he never makes a mistake! So, Jesus and his disciples went to Bethany.

When they arrived in Bethany, the body of Lazarus had been in the grave for 4 days. Many friends had come to comfort and help Mary and Martha in the loss of their brother. But when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she was so pleased that she rushed out to meet him.

Jesus had a kind heart and was full of love and sadness for his 3 friends. As well as being God, Jesus was also a real man with feelings and emotions.

But, was it too late now that Lazarus was in his grave? Could it be possible for Jesus to bring Lazarus back to life? That would be such a huge miracle! Jesus assured them that, because he as the Son of God, he was able to give life to Lazarus. He said, "Just believe and you will see the glory of God!"

Everyone went to Lazarus' grave. It was a cave with a big stone in front. Jesus said, "Take the stone away." So, they did as Jesus asked and rolled away the stone. Jesus thanked Father God for hearing and answering his prayer. Then in a loud voice Jesus said, "Lazarus come out" and an amazing thing happened. The dead man still wrapped in his grave clothes (that looked a bit like bandages wrapped around him) Lazarus came alive and walked out of the cave. Jesus said, "Take the grave clothes off, so he can be free."



Can you imagine the joy and astonishment they all felt when they saw this wonderful miracle? Jesus showed us that he has power over life and death. He showed us the magnificent glory of God!

Soon after this miracle, Jesus himself was going to die on the cross and his body was to be put in a tomb. But Jesus didn't stay dead, on the 3rd day he came alive again by his own power. Jesus still lives today. He is in heaven, sat by the side of God the Father, praying for us.

Dear Lord in heaven, thank you for this wonderful miracle, showing us that you have power over life and death. Help us to believe and trust in you because you are glorious. Amen.

Today's miracle can be found in John chapter 11 verses 1 - 16.