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Jesus Raises the Dead

Objective

The children learn that Jesus has power over death.

Contents

- **Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:40–42 and 49–56).**
- **The young man of Nain (Luke 7:11–17).**
- **Lazarus (John 11:1–44).**
- **Jesus gives eternal life.**

Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1

First, the teacher reads the text of exercise 1 in such a manner that the children become sensitive to the mother's despair.

The children complete the balloon.

Implementation

Afterwards the children read

Bible

Luke 8:52–56:
"And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done."

Discussion

The children recount the occurrence in their own words. Emphasize that the Lord Jesus performed a very special miracle here, namely the miracle of raising the dead.

Teacher's Presentation

This was not the only time the Lord Jesus demonstrated his power over death. The New Testament reports of two other dead persons whom Jesus brought back to life.

Discussion, Workbook, Text

The children tell about the young man of Nain and about Lazarus. If necessary, supplement or read the text in the workbook.

Workbook, Exercise 2

To reinforce, the children work on both parts of exercise 2.

Discussion

Afterwards bring out the following:

The three events have things in common.

- In each case someone was bereaved:
  - the parents over their daughter's death,
  - the widow over her son's death, and
  - the sisters over their brother's death.

- From a human perspective there was no help and little comfort that could be expected.
- Those who had died were brought back to life by the Lord Jesus.

The three events also differ.

- The girl had died only shortly before the Lord Jesus' arrival and still lay on her bed.
- When Jesus raised the young man of Nain from the dead, he had been dead longer than Jairus' daughter. He had already been taken to the grave outside the city.
- Lazarus had lain in the burial chamber for four days already when Jesus came. There was no doubt that he was dead.

Teacher's Presentation

It is interesting to note with respect to the raising of Lazarus that Jesus knew of Lazarus' illness, but first waited for him to die before going to Bethany.

Question Prompt

What could have been the reason for doing it this way?

Discussion

He wanted to make it clear to the people that he was the Son of God. He did not only have the power to heal the sick, but also power over death.

Teacher's Presentation

Jesus restored these three people back to life. At some time, however, they had to die nonetheless. The Lord Jesus was not interested in preserving the people's earthly life permanently. Again and again he spoke to his listeners about eternal life. Regarding this, he said something important to Martha before raising Lazarus. A child reads aloud.

Bible

John 11:25:
"I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live ..."

Discussion

Discuss with the children what Jesus meant when he said, "... though he were dead, yet shall he live."

It is much more important to have eternal life than a long earthly life. Jesus Christ is life eternal; he wants to lead all to eternal life. This new life we received via the rebirth of water and Spirit. Through God's word, which we grasp in faith, and the Holy Communion, the reborn life is preserved.

Conclusion

Workbook, Exercise 3

The children work on the exercise and discuss the Bible verse.

Notes