

From Sorrow to Joy

Luke 7:11-17; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 318-320



One day Jerry found a vending machine that would give him candy without putting any money into it! It was great—until his dad saw what was happening and made him give the candy back to the store manager. We'd all like something good for free. Well, did you know that Jesus gives us His love and grace free? And those are better than candy!

Jesus and His friends talked and laughed together as they walked along a dusty road. The little mountain village of Nain lay before them. The road was rough and rocky in places as it led up to the village. Along the way, Jesus had been telling people

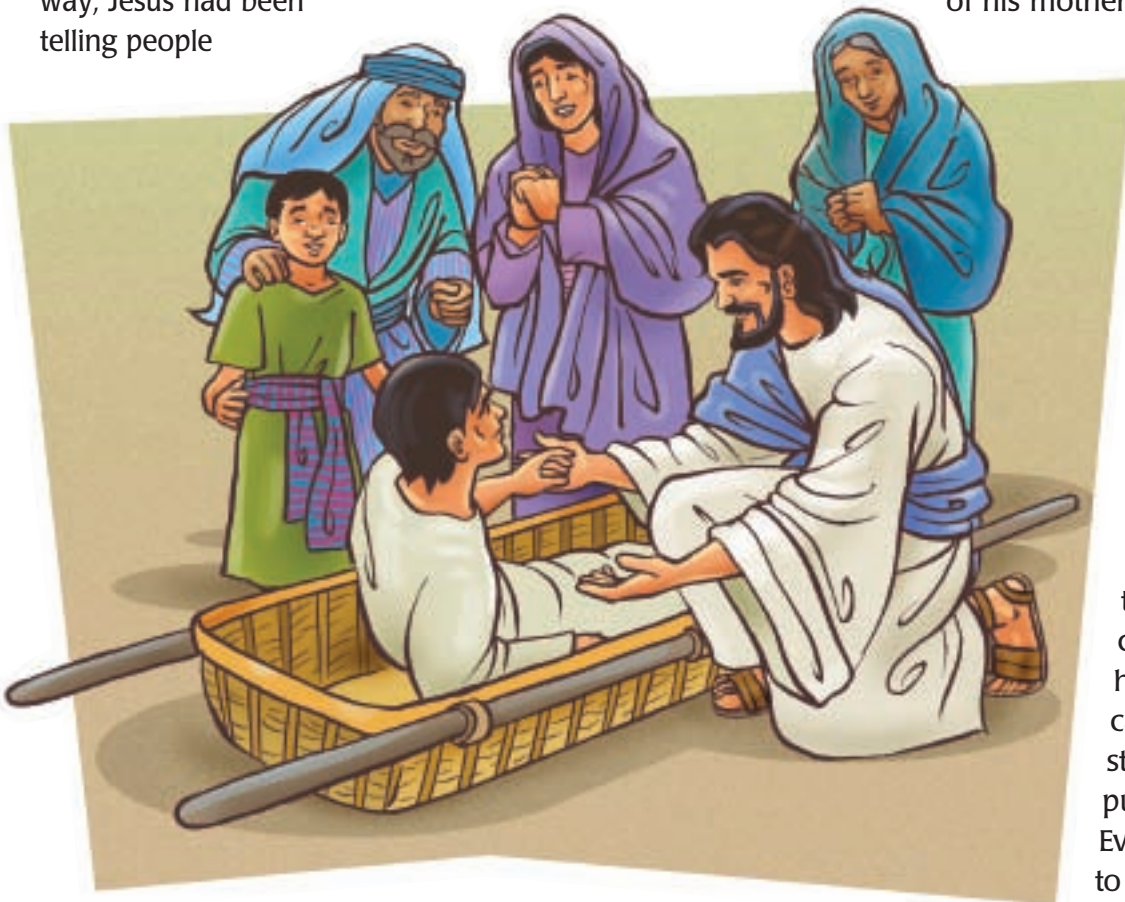
about God's love for them. And He had been healing the sick that were brought His way.

Nearing Nain, the happy group stopped suddenly. They were silenced by a sad sight leaving the city gate. A little frown crossed Jesus' face. As the procession came closer, Jesus and His friends learned that a widow woman had lost her only son. Jesus looked at the heartbroken mother. His own heart was broken to see this mother hurting so deeply. He felt her sadness and sorrow as she wept for her son. He knew that she had lost her husband to death some time before. Her son

had been the only one to take care of his mother. But now she

had no one. She would probably be left penniless and homeless.

The woman walked on, weeping, and did not notice Jesus. He came close to her and spoke gently. "Don't cry," He said. Then He turned to the open coffin carrying her son. The men carrying the coffin stopped when Jesus put His hand on it. Everyone waited to see what would



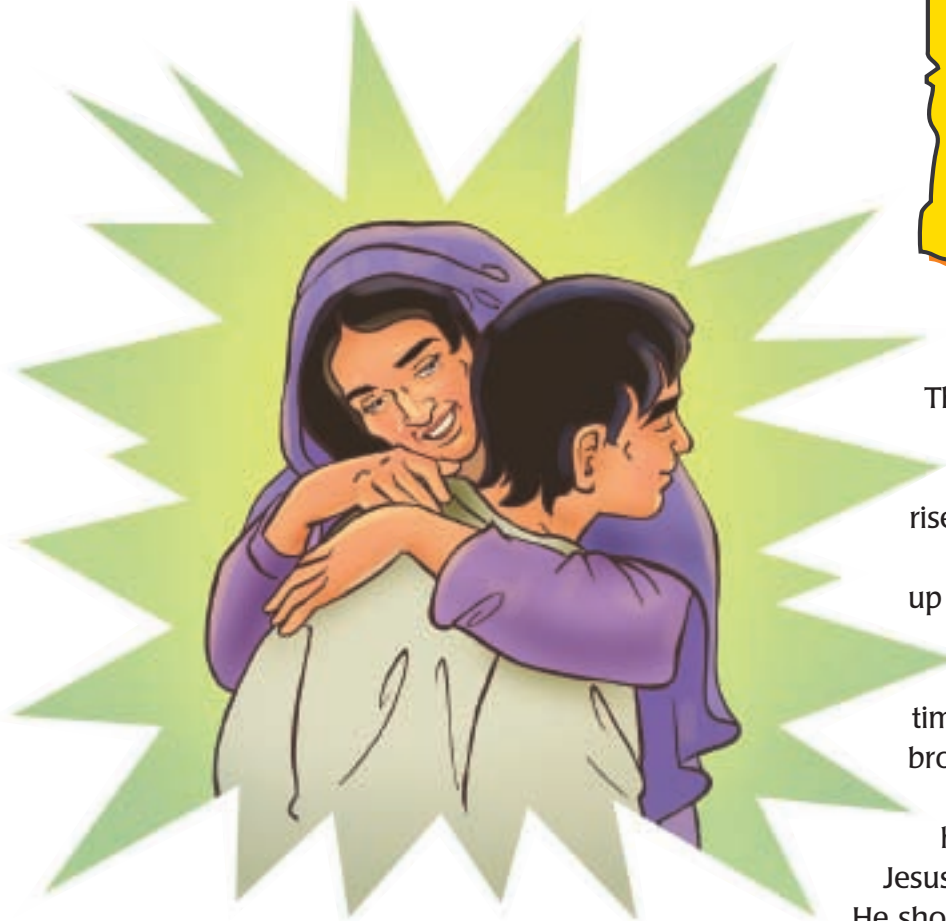
The Message

Jesus gives His love and grace freely.

Memory Verse

“ I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow’ ”

(Jeremiah 31:13, NIV).



Those who watched were amazed! They began to praise God saying, “A great prophet has risen among us.”

The news about Jesus breaking up a funeral traveled far and wide! People had never heard of such a thing. (This was the first time while on earth that Jesus brought someone back to life.) But those who were there and saw it happen were quick to tell others.

Jesus has the same love for us that He showed the widow and her son. She

didn't ask for help from Jesus. Jesus saw her tears and her sorrow, and He had pity on her. His love for her and concern for her suffering caused Him to perform this miracle. Truly, Jesus turned her sorrow into joy.

Jesus can turn our sorrow into joy too. He loves every one of us and wants us to be happy. And He will turn many sorrows into joy when He comes again. At that time He will bring those from the grave who gave their hearts to Him before they died. What a day of joy that will be! Mothers, fathers, boys, and girls will be together again to live with Jesus forever!

happen next.

Jesus' friends gathered around. Those in the funeral procession stood quietly nearby. *What would Jesus do?* they wondered.

Jesus looked at the still body. Then, in a loud voice He said, “Young man, I tell you, get up!” The strong voice of Jesus reached the crowd. And suddenly, the widow's son sat up and began to talk!

Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up. (See *The Desire of Ages*, page 318.) Then He gave the son to his mother. The woman and her son hugged each other tightly. And the mother's sad tears were changed to tears of joy!



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, after lunch go with your family to a cemetery and look at the tombstones. Which is oldest? Which is the most recent? Find a quiet place nearby and read your lesson story together. Ask: What will the cemetery be like when Jesus comes?

DO Use the motions you learned in Sabbath School to teach the memory verse to your family.

S U N D A Y

SHARE Share the tombstone you made in Sabbath School with someone who is sad or lonely or hurting. (If you didn't make one, draw a tombstone and write your memory verse on it.) Tell them about the widow of Nain and her son.

DRAW Draw a tombstone and write these words on it, one under the other: *God's Riches At Christ's Expense*. (Make the first letter of each word dark.) What word do the first letters spell? What does that mean? (God's grace gives us what we don't deserve; Jesus died in our place to save us, so we could have eternal life, etc.)

M O N D A Y

READ During worship today read Luke 7:11, 12. Who was walking with Jesus? Who was walking with the widow? What did you learn about the boy? Why was a son important to a woman in Jesus' time?

SING Sing songs about Jesus' death and resurrection. Why did Jesus die? Why did He come back to life? Where is He now? Thank Him for dying for you and your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Luke 7:13. How did Jesus feel when He saw the crying woman? What did Jesus say to the widow? How do you feel when someone else is sad?

DO Do something kind for someone who is sad or needs your help. (Write a note, make a phone call, take some food, share your memory verse.) Tell your family about it during worship.

PRAY Thank Jesus that you can help others.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read Luke 7:14, 15 for worship today. What did Jesus do? What did He say? What happened?

ASK Ask the adults in your family to tell about praying for you. What did they say? What happened? Ask them about a time God did not heal someone they prayed for. Did they keep loving and trusting God? Why?

SING Sing about God's love for your family, then thank Him for it.

T H U R S D A Y

READ During worship today, read Luke 7:16, 17. How did the people feel when they saw Jesus give the son to his mother? What did they say? What did they do? Who will you tell about Jesus?

MAKE Ask each family member to write an ending to this sentence: "God's love is as big as _____." Put the sentences together on one paper. Ask an adult to help you write a note to go with it. Then send the paper to the family of someone who died or to someone who is sick. Pray for that person during worship.



The widow's son was in an open coffin made of wicker, sort of a long basket.



F R I D A Y

READ If possible, for family worship read *The Desire of Ages*, pages 318, 319 (chapter 32, paragraphs 10-15). Then act out the story together. Who will be the widow? Her son? Jesus?

THINK The Bible says that Jesus' heart went out to the widow. What does that mean? When does Jesus' heart go out to you?

SING Sing some praise songs together. Then thank Jesus for feeling for us when we hurt and when we're happy. Ask each person to tell Jesus about one of those times.

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PUZZLE

Directions: Match the shape and color under each line to find out what happens when Jesus freely gives His love.

