

The Day Jesus Cried

John 11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 524–536

Has someone you loved died? Have you lost a friend or a pet?

One day Jesus visited some friends who shared bad news with Him. He felt so sad that He cried. What do you think He did then?

The shortest verse in the Bible is also one of the saddest—John 11:35: “Jesus wept.” What was it that made Jesus cry? Was it when His disciples abandoned Him? Was it while He was being beaten by Roman guards? Was it while He was hanging on the cross?

No. Jesus cried when His friend died.

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived in Bethany, not far from Jerusalem. These two sisters and their brother were close friends of Jesus. He often stayed with them when He was in Bethany. They knew His power, so when Lazarus became sick, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus.

But Jesus did not hurry. He stayed where He was for two more days. Then He started for Bethany. By the time He got there, Lazarus

had been dead for four days.

Jesus knew Lazarus would die. He planned to raise Lazarus from the dead to prove once and for all that He, Jesus, was the Son of God. But Lazarus’s poor sisters didn’t know about Jesus’ plan. All they knew was that Lazarus had been sick. And they had sent for Jesus, and He hadn’t come. When Martha heard that Jesus was nearing the village, she went out to meet Him.



“If You had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died,” she said. But there was still a glimmer of hope in her. “I know that even now

The Message

God wants me to care about others.

Memory Verse

"Carry each other's burdens"

(Galatians 6:2, NIV).

God will give You whatever You ask," she added.

"I am the resurrection and the life," said Jesus. "Whoever lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

"Yes," said Martha. "I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God." She had new hope in her heart, and she ran and got her sister.

"The Teacher is here," she told Mary. "He is asking for you."

Mary jumped up and hurried outside the village to meet Jesus. When she saw Him, she fell at His feet and cried the same thing Martha had. "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus knew what was going to happen next. He would ask for the stone to be rolled away from Lazarus's tomb. He would pray to His Father in heaven and then call Lazarus out of the tomb. Lazarus would come walking out, still wrapped in burial cloths. In just a few minutes these sisters would have their brother back. And they would be happier then.

But right now two of His best friends were heartbroken. And one of them was weeping at His feet. His own tender heart was moved, and Jesus cried. He shared Mary and Martha's loss. He felt the sorrow they were feeling, and He cried with them.

Here Jesus gave us an example of bearing one another's burdens. He showed us how to treat others.

He wants us to put ourselves in the place of others. To feel what they are feeling. Just as Jesus shared His friends' loss, we are to share one another's joys and sorrows.





S A B B A T H

DO Go with your family to a cemetery or other quiet place outdoors. Read your lesson story together. Make believe that you are near Lazarus's burial place. Imagine that you were there when Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb.

READ Read your memory verse to your family.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read together John 11:1-44, each family member reading one verse at a time.

DO Together, think of people you know who are sad. Choose one and plan how your family can show caring to them this week. Pray for them today.

SING Sing together "Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, No. 126).

DO Teach the memory verse to your family.

M O N D A Y

DO Begin an experiment with your family (to be finished later this week). Put a very ripe piece of fruit in a dark place and leave it there for four days. On Friday, look at it again.

READ How long was Lazarus in the grave? Read John 11:17 to find out.

DO On a big piece of paper, write your memory verse inside a circle. Make it look like the stone that covered Lazarus's tomb. Then read or say the memory verse to an adult. Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

T U E S D A Y

DO During family worship, draw a sad or crying face. Read John 11:35. Talk about the verse with your family. If Jesus can cry when He is sad, what does this teach you about crying today? Is it all right for grown-ups to cry too? Do you think Jesus has ever cried for you?

DO Say your memory verse together, then thank Jesus for caring for you.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO With your family, talk about what you can do to show that you really care about each other. Write or draw your loving action on a card and make a commitment to do this before Sabbath. Read together Galatians 6:10. Is this verse good for families too?

DO Read the memory verse in a different way by inserting the names of the members of your family where it says "each other." Tell how you will carry someone's burden today.

Raising Lazarus from the dead showed that nothing is stronger than Jesus—not even death.





T H U R S D A Y

READ Discuss with your family: What can Jesus' example teach us about carrying other people's burdens? Read together Matthew 11:28; Psalm 68:19. In your own words, tell what these texts mean.

DO Name ways you could have lightened Martha and Mary's burden had you been there.

DO Tell your memory verse to someone whose burden or troubles you would like to help carry.

DO Sing together "Love Is in Your Hand" (He Is Our Song, No. 134). Then pray for that person.

F R I D A Y

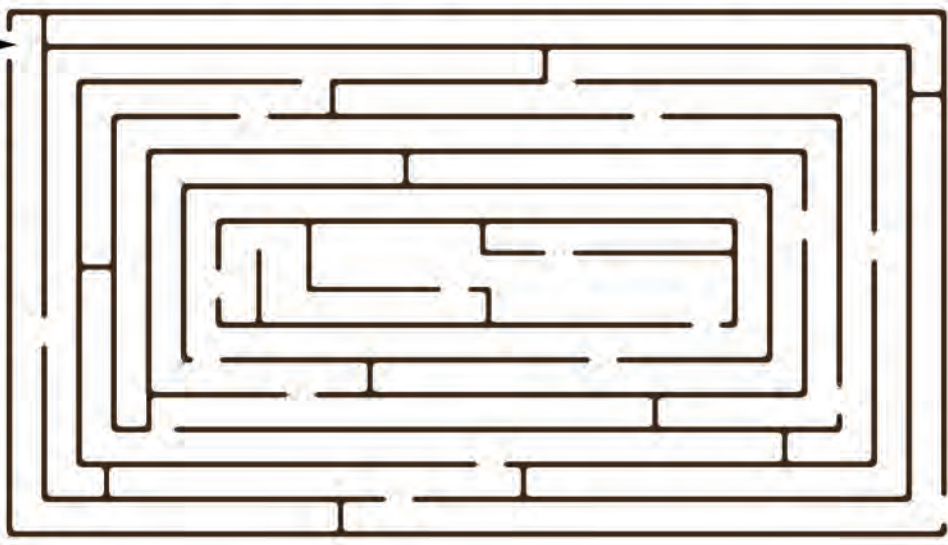
DO At the beginning of family worship, look at your piece of fruit from Monday. What does the fruit look like? Can it be restored? Read John 11:25 together. Who alone has the power to restore life?

DO Now read together Romans 15:5. Practice saying words of encouragement as you role play the following situations: a good friend moves away; a pet dies; being sick; bad grades at school; good grades at school; friend gets something new.

DO Report on the caring projects started during Sunday's family worship. Then pray for each person involved.

PUZZLE

Directions: Help Jesus find His way to Bethany to comfort Mary and Martha when Lazarus died.



PRAYER C

God is patient and loving with us. Each day we can pray for others. This chart will help you. Each morning write a person's name or description in one box, and pray for that person.

1

Someone you need to forgive

5

Your parents

6

A shut-in

7

Community leaders

8

Your cousin

12

A sad person

13

A person who made you cry

14

Your brother or sister

15

A person who won over you

19

A person who is out of work

20

A family that is moving away

21

A person who shouted at you

22

A person who gave your food

26

A grandparent

27

The family of a person who has died

28

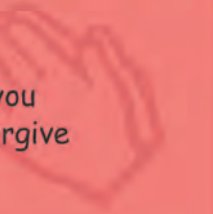
The employer of your parent

29

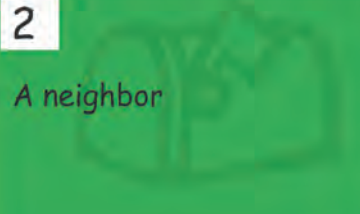
A person who embarrassed you

CALENDAR


1
Who you forgive




2
A neighbor




3
Your teacher



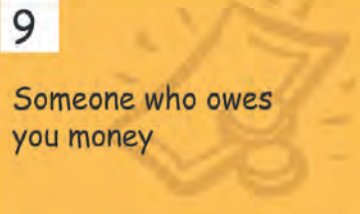
4
Quietest kid in your class



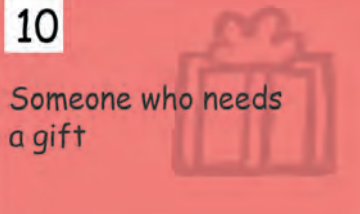
5
Who you sin



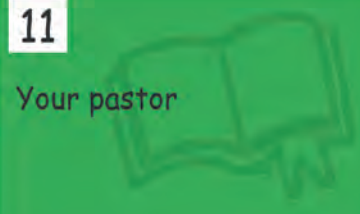
9
Someone who owes you money




10
Someone who needs a gift



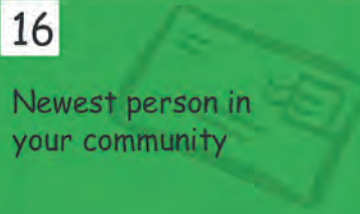
11
Your pastor



12
Who watches you



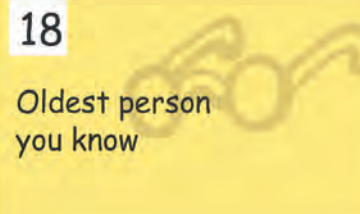
16
Newest person in your community



17
A new baby




18
Oldest person you know




19
Who grows you




23
The newest kid in your class



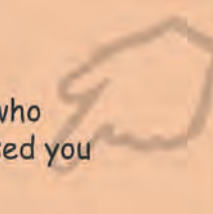
24
A person who made you angry



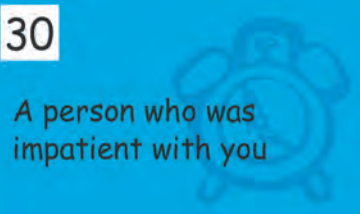
25
A happy person



26
Who teased you



30
A person who was impatient with you



31
For the soon return of Jesus

