

WEEK 3

GOD IS MIGHTY GOD IS MIGHTIER THAN DEATH PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS

KEY VERSE

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Romans 6:23

KEY IDEAS

1. God gives life.
2. Death is a consequence of sin, but God has power over it.
3. God raises us from spiritual death to life when we follow Him.

KEY PASSAGE

John 11 (the story of Lazarus)

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

God is more powerful than death.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

confident in the God who has power over death.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

talk about how our sin leads to death but God makes us spiritually new in Jesus.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to follow the God who has power over death.

INTRODUCTION

God is the creator of all things and all things are under His power and rule. He has total and complete authority over everything and everyone on earth and in heaven. He is all knowing, all seeing, and all present. There is nothing and no one that is greater or mightier than our God! No other gods that man has made, not anything that has been created, not the wind or waves, not anything we might be afraid of, and not even death. God has power and authority over it all. He is the giver and sustainer of all life, and everything He does is good.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by asking the kids for examples of things that make us cry. "Why do we cry? Did Jesus ever cry? The Bible tells us that Jesus experienced all the things that we experience, and that means that sometimes He cried, too! Today we're going to read a story about something that made Jesus cry. Even though Jesus was fully God, and He knew everything that was going to happen, He cried because He felt sad for His friends."

STORY

Read John 11:1-45. Use the Jesus Storybook bible version.

Jesus loved His friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. When the sisters sent word to Jesus that their brother was sick, Jesus did not come right away to help. Instead, He waited for two days when Lazarus had died before He decided to leave because He had a plan to show His disciples and friends just how powerful He was. The disciples knew this was a dangerous journey and they could all be killed by those who didn't like Jesus, but they believed that they could face even death if Jesus was with them. When Jesus got to the tomb where Lazarus was, he had already been dead for four days. Many people there had lost hope that he could be saved. When Martha saw Jesus, she said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" Martha answered, "Yes, Lord, I believe You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world." Martha knew that Jesus was powerful, and she had seen Him do things only God could do, but she didn't understand what Jesus was about to do. Mary did not understand either, and she fell down at His feet and wept. Jesus was deeply moved when He saw their grief, and He wept, too. His tears were different than theirs, because He knew that He was about to raise Lazarus back to life. Jesus had power over death. Mary and Martha thought that death had won and that they wouldn't see their brother again, but Jesus knew that Lazarus's death was only temporary. Still, Jesus saw how sad they were and He shared their sorrow, too. Then Jesus commanded them to take away the stone, lifted His eyes and prayed to God the Father, and with a loud voice said, "Lazarus, come out." And he did! Lazarus walked out of the tomb and many people believed in Jesus that day.

ACTIVITY

Using either toilet paper or large bedsheets, practice wrapping "Lazarus" using a child volunteer. Have the rest of the class wrap Lazarus and instruct him to go into the "tomb" (something you fashion using items in the classroom for Lazarus to hide behind). Tell the rest of the class to call out to Lazarus like Jesus did in the story saying, "Lazarus, come out!". When Lazarus emerges, have him or her try to throw off the toilet paper or sheets they have been wrapped in.

PRAYER

Thank God that He is mightier than even death.
Thank God that because of Jesus, we can have life in Him. Ask God to help you understand and trust that He is mightier than death.

SONG

My God is So Big, So Strong, and So Mighty by We Sing Bible Songs or Jeeva 1996 on Youtube

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

John 11:25-26, Romans 6:23, John 3:16

ACTIVITY

Take time with your child this week to create a Lazarus doll using a popsicle stick and string. Wrap the stick in string like a mummy. Using three large paper or plastic cups, place Lazarus under one and mix them up. Have your child guess where Lazarus is and say, "come out!". Lead them in a discussion about how God, and only God, has the power to raise the dead to life again through Jesus.

DISCUSSION

- Why is there death in the world?
Because of sin, there is death. Death is the consequence of sin, but God, the giver of life, is more powerful than death and He has made a way through His Son Jesus for us to have life forever.
- What does it mean to be spiritually dead? What does God do for the spiritually dead?
Discuss the difference in physical death and spiritual death. Physical death is a consequence of sin that we all must face, but God, in His mercy, made a way through Jesus for us to be rescued from spiritual death and live forever with Him. (John 3:16, Romans 6:23)

PRAYER

Thank God that He is mightier than death and that we do not have to fear it in Jesus. Ask Him to help you trust and place your faith in the One who has power over the grave.



Jesus Raised Lazarus From the Dead