

Lazarus

John 11:1-45

Set out two bowls half-filled with water, a carton of salt, and a couple of spoons.

Say: How many of you have cried? (*Everyone cries.*) **Have you ever tasted your tears?** Pause for responses. **What do tears taste like?** (*They're salty.*) **Do you think we could make tears or a liquid like tears?** Pause. **Let's try an experiment.**

What kind of liquid do you think is in the two bowls? (*water*) **Why do you think**

it is water? (*It's clear. It has no odor.*) **What's in this container?** (*salt*) **I need two volunteers to add a spoonful of salt to each bowl.** Choose two people to add the salt. **What do you think will happen to the salt when we stir the salt and water?** (*The salt will disappear or dissolve.*) **Let's have everyone take a turn at stirring.** Let everyone stir the mixture in one of the bowls. Put a spoonful of the mixture into the cups. Give everyone a cup of the mixture. **What do you think this mixture will taste like?** (*salty*) **Let's take a little sip. Do you think the mixture we made tastes like tears?** Affirm responses. **In today's Bible story, lots of people cry—even Jesus cries. But the story has a surprise ending. I can't wait to read it with you!**

Today's Bible story is about Lazarus. Lazarus lived with his two sisters, Mary and Martha. All three of them were Jesus' good friends. But in this story, something very sad happened, so sad that it made Jesus cry. Let's listen to find out what made Jesus so sad.

Read John 11:1-45 together.

Who knows what a mime is? Affirm responses. A *mime* is someone who acts out a story without saying a word. Our Bible story today is filled with actions that we can mime. I'm going to read the story a second time. Whenever I stop, think about the words I just read. Then follow my actions as we mime the story together. What do mimes do? (*act*) **What don't mimes do?** (*talk*)

- **Mary and Martha crying** (Rub your eyes and make a sad face.)
- **Mary shaking Jesus lightly when she says, "Jesus, if you had been here . . ."** (Move both hands as if you are gently shaking someone's shoulders.)
- **Jesus weeping** (Rub eyes and make a sad face.)
- **Mary, Martha, and Jesus walking to the tomb** (Sadly shuffle in place.)
- **Rolling the stone away** (Ask a kid to model a somersault for the rest of the class.)
- **Jesus shouting** (Cup hands around mouth and lean forward.)
- **Lazarus trying to run out with burial cloths wrapped around his legs** (Keep your knees together as you take tiny steps in place.)

- **All the people laughing, singing, and dancing around (Jump up twice and twirl around in place twice.)**

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask your family these questions:

- 1. Why didn't Jesus come to Mary and Martha's house sooner?** *(Jesus was on a long journey. He had to walk to their house, so it took a few days.)*
- 2. What did the people think when Lazarus came out of the tomb?** *(They were frightened and amazed. Then they laughed, and sang, and danced.)*
- 3. Tell about a time when you felt sad for your friend.** Affirm all responses.

Look at the Family Pages for more conversation starters and ideas!