

Get Ready!

Without a Doubt

By: Marsha Crockett



Text

John 11:17-43

Key Quest Verse

“I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world . . .” (John 6:69).

Bible Background

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. He sustains a special relationship with God and a special relationship with man. He is both Son of God and Son of Man. Having this unique nature, He is able to serve as mediator between God and mankind. In His sinless purity and perfection, Jesus is able to do what no other individual can do. He alone is qualified to be the bridge between God and man.

“There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” (1 Timothy 2:5, 6). Jesus had His origin in the mind and plan of God. His life and work were foreknown and planned by God from the beginning of time. Devised by His wisdom, prompted by His love, and performed by His power, God’s plan of salvation finds its center in the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before Adam sinned or was even created, God knew that the human race would need a Savior. He planned for Jesus to be born. Jesus had a supernatural birth. He was born of Mary who was a virgin. She was a Jewish woman living in Nazareth of Galilee. Jesus had an earthly mother, but did not have an earthly father. Through His power, the Holy Spirit, God brought about the biological conception of Jesus within Mary. The angel told Mary that her baby, yet to be born, would be the Son of the Highest, the Son of God. (Luke 1:26-35).

As Jesus went throughout Galilee, preaching and teaching and showing the glad tidings of the Kingdom of God, (Luke 8:1), people were amazed by His wonderful words and marvelous works. The disciples were increasingly convinced that indeed He is the Messiah, the Son of God. The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is the central theme and foundation stone of the gospel. John stated that his Gospel was written, “that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:31). Of course, it is John 3:16 that records the famous inspiring words: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” Beyond all constellations and galaxies, the glorified Christ today is the most highly exalted person in all the universe, next to God Himself. He is worthy of our adoration, obedience, and love.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

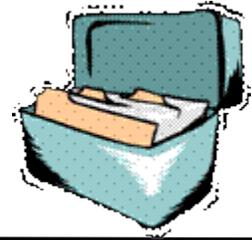
Know: Jesus is the Son of God.

Feel: Confident enough to speak this truth to someone else.

Do: Recognize the unique qualities that make Jesus the Son of God and pray for ways to share this good news with someone else.

Leader’s Devotion

The entire story of the resurrection of Lazarus is filled with many individuals who know Jesus in different ways. Martha was growing in her understanding and certain about who Jesus was. The disciples were committed to following Jesus because they also believed Him to be the Messiah, but they didn’t always understand his words or actions. They, too, were on a spiritual journey. Many of the Jews who gathered around Mary and Martha didn’t believe Jesus was the Son of God. But, regardless of where people were in their journey, Jesus knew each of their needs and longed to be in a relationship with them. That’s why He orchestrated the amazing events and resulting miracle of bringing Lazarus back to life. Who do you most identify with in this story? In what ways have you acknowledge Jesus as God’s Son? What areas of your life do you need to ask Jesus to resurrect in you? Ask Him to make his presence real in your life today.

Get Set!

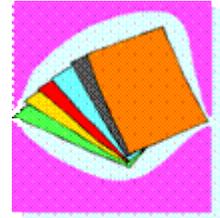
Option A**WHO AM I?**

Materials: 3x5 cards with names of characters written on them, tape, articles of clothing for costumes

As students arrive, tape the name of a TV star, cartoon character, or sports figure on their backs. Tell them they may ask each other yes or no questions about who they are (i.e., Am I a person? Am I an animal? Am I animated? Am I the star of my own show? Etc . . .) Once everyone has determined their identity have them sit in a circle and say, **Why was it tough to figure out who you were?** (too many confusing answers, couldn’t remember what I learned about myself, too many possibilities . . .) **We weren’t certain from the clues who we were supposed to be, were we? We’re going to act out a story from the Bible that helps us to know for certain who Jesus is – the Son of God. We’ll meet a woman in our story named Martha who knew for certain who Jesus was. As you hear the story, listen for the clues that show us that Jesus really is the Son of God.**

Choose students to be Jesus, Lazarus, Martha, Mary, Thomas, and a messenger. The kids will act out the scene as you read the story. They will not have any speaking parts or need scripts. To make it fun, have costumes or other props available for kids to use (robes, headdress, strips of cloth or gauze for Lazarus to wear in the grave, etc.) Read through the following story below once, and as you go, encourage the kids to decide how they will act or move. Then, read through the story one more time without interruption. If interest is high, switch parts and repeat the story once again.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Option B****CLUE CAPER**

Materials: Sheets of paper or construction paper with clues to the story written on them

Before class begins, write out the following clues to the story on sheets of paper and hide them in various locations in the room. Draw simple stick figure illustrations on each sheet as well. The sheets should read as follows: (do not number the sheets because part of the task will involve figuring out which comes first, second, etc.)

1. Lazarus was sick and his sisters sent word to Jesus to come and heal him.
2. Lazarus dies and Mary and Martha are sad.
3. Jesus and His disciples decide to finally go to Bethany to see Mary and Martha. Jesus knows that Lazarus is already dead.
4. When Jesus arrives, Martha meets Him on the road and asked why He didn’t come sooner. But, she also said, “I believe the you are the Christ, the Son of God.”
5. Mary and the other Jews who were mourning the death of Lazarus came out to see Jesus, too, and they were crying.
6. This made Jesus feel so sad that He also wept.
7. Jesus prayed to ask the Heavenly Father to hear His prayer and to help those who saw the miracle to believe.
8. Jesus asked the people to open the grave by moving the stone away.
9. Mary didn’t think this was a good idea, because Lazarus had been dead four days.
10. Jesus called out in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.”
11. Lazarus came out of the tomb still wrapped up in the grave clothes.
12. Many people believed in Jesus after this and knew he was the Son of God.

After all the clues are found, bring them back to the circle and explain that these clues tell the Bible story about Jesus and Lazarus. Make sure everyone has at least one clue if possible. If the class is bigger, give a clue to every other person and ask two people to read together. Read the clues starting with the person on your left and read straight around the circle. Obviously, these won’t be in the correct order. Encourage the kids to think about the Bible Story from last week and decide who has the first clue. Have the kids move to the correct spot in the circle until the story is in order. Then, read the final version of the story. Congratulate them on their hard work and great memories.

Now put the clues into the center of the circle. And hand out 3x5 cards with one word from the key verse written on it. Repeat the same process above, but put the memory verse in order.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

Story of Lazarus (based on John 11:17-43)

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha . . . so the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord the one you love is sick.”

When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet, when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where he was two more days.

Then He said to His disciples, “Let us go back to Judea . . .” After he said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but His disciples thought He meant natural sleep.

So, then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But, I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

Get Set!**Bible Story**

“Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God who was to come into the world.”

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Where have you laid him? He asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept . . . once more deeply moved, He came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” He said.

“But Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did not I tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

So, they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you send me.”

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grace clothes and let him go.”

And many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in Him.

After re-enacting the story, gather the kids together in a circle and discuss the following questions:

How did you know Jesus was the Son of God? What were the clues?

How would you have felt if someone you loved died and Jesus showed up three days too late?

Why didn’t Jesus just make Lazarus well rather than letting him die?

Have you ever told someone else that Jesus is the Son of God? What was it like?

Go!

Prayer Page**JOURNAL**

Materials: Resource Page

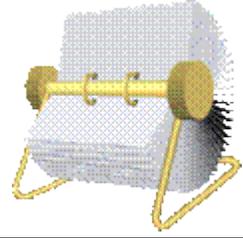
Quest Connection

It is important that we pray for people who don’t know Jesus. Maybe we can help by sharing what we know about Jesus with that person.

Procedure: Think about one person in your life who doesn’t know Jesus. This can be an adult or someone your own age, a neighbor, family member, or classmate. Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help that person to know Jesus and asking Jesus to give you creative ways to talk to that person.

Close

Sometimes it’s hard to tell someone about Jesus. But everyone needs to know the Son of God and receive His love in their life.

Go!**Guess Who****GAME**

Materials: Resource Page, 3x5 index cards

Quest Connection

If we had to make a list of unique things about Jesus, what would they be? (can do miracles, was born in a stable, died and came back to life, had a lot of people following him, etc.) **All these things tell us that we can know who Jesus is. We can recognize Him as the Son of God, just like we can recognize you from your unique qualities. When we realize this, we can be confident like Martha and say, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Let’s say those words together.**

Procedure: Give each student the name of one character from the Bible Story. Work in pairs or teams. Students read one clue at a time until the character is guessed. (Use Game Cards in Resource Pages.) When all the characters have been guessed, hand out blank 3x5 cards to each student. Ask them to write down three things they believe are unique or unusual about themselves. Make sure no one sees what they write. It can be a physical feature or ability (I can stand on my head using one hand, I can touch my tongue to my nose, I can do a back bend, etc.) It can be something they’ve accomplished (climbed a mountain, won a blue ribbon at the state fair, met a famous person, set a record in sports, rode a roller coaster 5 times in a row, etc.) Or, it may be a dream or a goal (to be a Broadway star, to find a cure for cancer, to rescue animals, etc.) After students have finished, they turn the cards back in to you. Read the three unique things and see if the class can guess who is who.

Close

Prayer: Dear Father, thank You for Your son, and for all of His unique qualities. Thank You for giving each of us our own unique qualities and abilities. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

Go!

This Little Light**OBJECT LESSON**

Materials: Candles (one for each student), matches (for the teacher)

Quest Connection

As we stand here with these candles lit, think of one person in your life who needs to see the light of Jesus. How can you share that light? (Invite the person to church, show them an unexpected kindness, etc.)

Procedure: Light a candle and observe how much light a little flame generates. If possible, turn out lights or block window light. Once the candle is lit, talk about how speaking about Jesus to others is like bringing light to them. But, when we hide our belief that Jesus is the Son of God, it’s like putting a glass over the flame. **What happens?** The flame goes out and our faith goes out or at least is hidden. **The more we share Jesus with others, the brighter our faith burns.** Give each student a candle. Relight your candle and pass it on to one student who will then light the next student’s candle until all have been lit. Notice how bright the light becomes.

Close

Ask the children to bow their heads, then go around the circle and have them each simply say the first name of the individual they’ve thought of. When everyone has named the person, pray for the group as a whole in sharing their faith.

Go!**Crafty Creatures****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Wire, hot glue gun, buttons, ribbons, feathers, sequins, fabric or felt

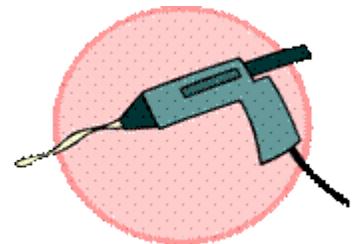
Quest Connection

Point out that no two creations are exactly alike, although you all had the same materials to use. **This one-of-a kind creature reminds us that Jesus is the one and only Christ, the unique Son of God.** Suggest that the students consider giving their creature to someone who doesn’t know Christ. It will be a great way to begin a conversation about Him. If time, role play how they might do this.

Procedure: Bring a large assortment of craft supplies for each child to create one chinle wire person or creature. Bend the wire into the shape desired. Glue (hot glue with your supervision) buttons, ribbons, feathers, sequence, etc. to the creature. Use fabric or felt to cut out clothes if desired. When complete let each student show their creation and give it a name.

Close

Prayer: Thank You for making every person different. We all have wonderful characteristics. Help us use our talents and abilities that You have given us. Amen.



Go!

Story Pyramid**ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Resource Page, tape or glue

Quest Connection

We are going to create a pyramid to help us remember the order of this story.

Procedure: Cut out the story pyramid. Fold and glue or tape together. Cut out the story pictures and memory verse to glue onto the pyramid. Encourage children to use the pyramid to share this story with a friend.

Close

As time permits, let one or two of the children retell the lesson using the pictures and the pyramid.

Go!**Know Your Stuff****RESEARCH****Materials:** Resource Page**Quest Connection**

Let’s see how well we can answer the questions on this worksheet. Let’s review our Key Quest Verse before we get started.

Procedure: Make copies of the Resource Page and hand them out to students. Have them look up the story passage in the Bible in John 11. They may use their Bibles to help them answer the questions and activities on this worksheet. When everyone is done, review the correct answers with the class. (Answers for the Fact or Faction are: F, T, F, T, F, F. Ask the students to explain what is wrong with the false answers. Use the Bible to determine correct answers. Answers for “Who Said What” are: A, B, C, A, D.) The message reads: “I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

Close

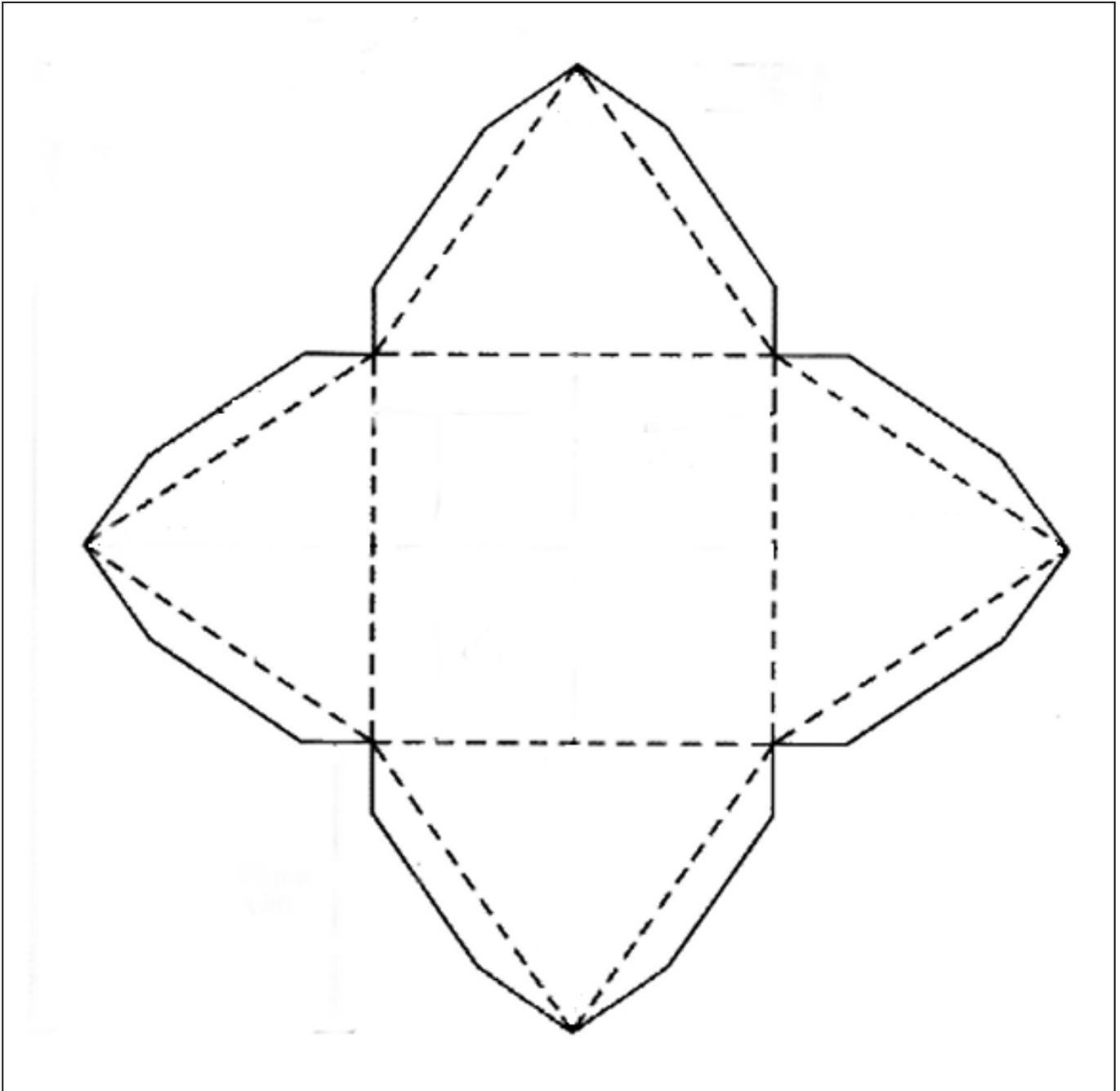
Prayer: Thank You for sending your Son to die on the cross for our sins. Help us always be thankful for this. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

Resource Page
GUESS WHO GAME CARDS

<p>LAZARUS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I lived in Bethany.2. A cat is said to have nine lives; I'm not a cat, but so far I've had two lives.3. It's strange to come out of a dark cave all wrapped up like a mummy.4. Jesus is a great friend.5. Mary and Martha are my sisters.	<p>THOMAS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I followed Jesus everywhere.2. I didn't always understand the reasons why he did what he did.3. There are 11 other men who follow Jesus with me.4. I was the one who wanted to go back to Judea with Jesus to die with him if necessary.5. I've been known as a doubter.
<p>MARTHA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In the past I was too busy to enjoy Jesus' company.2. I asked him to come heal someone who was sick.3. When Jesus finally arrived, I was very disappointed that he didn't come sooner.4. I had faith that one day Jesus would resurrect the dead.5. I said, "I believe you are the Christ the Son of God."	<p>MARY</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I've loved Jesus for a long time and spent hours just listening to him at his feet.2. My sister didn't always appreciate my sitting around while she was busy working.3. When Jesus finally arrived, I fell at his feet crying.4. I didn't think it was a very good idea to open Lazarus' grave.5. My sister is Martha.
<p>JESUS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I'm often misunderstood.2. It seems people either love me or hate me.3. I knew what I was doing when I decided not to heal Lazarus before he died.4. I raised Lazarus from the dead.5. I am the Son of God.	

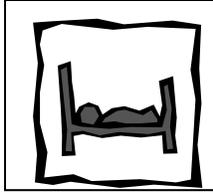
Resource Page
STORY PYRAMID

Cut out the story pyramid and glue the story pictures from the next page. Fold the pyramid on the dotted lines and glue or tape the tabs together.



Resource Page
STORY PYRAMID, Page 2

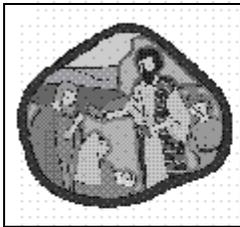
Cut out this pictures and glue them on your story pyramid to help you remember the story of Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life and proving that he is the Son of God.



Lazarus was sick before he died.



A cave tomb like where Lazarus may have been buried.



Jesus comes to Bethany to comfort Lazarus' family and friends and to bring Lazarus back to life.



Before Jesus called Lazarus to come out of the tomb, he prayed to God.

"I BELIEVE THAT YOU
ARE THE CHRIST,
THE SON OF GOD"
(John 11:27).

Put the memory verse in the center box of your story pyramid.

Know Your Stuff

1. Fact or Fiction: Read the statements below, and write T for true or F for false.

- ___ Lazarus was dead three days before Jesus brought him back to life.
- ___ Martha was the first one to meet Jesus on the road before he arrived at her house.
- ___ When Jesus saw everyone crying about Lazarus, he told them to stop being sad.
- ___ Before Jesus resurrected Lazarus, he prayed.
- ___ Jesus said, "Lazarus, Wake Up!" when he brought him back to life.
- ___ Mary was worried about opening the tomb because the stone was so heavy.

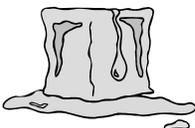
2. Who Said What: Write the letter of the individual who said or did each statement.

A. Jesus B. Martha C. Mary D. Lazarus

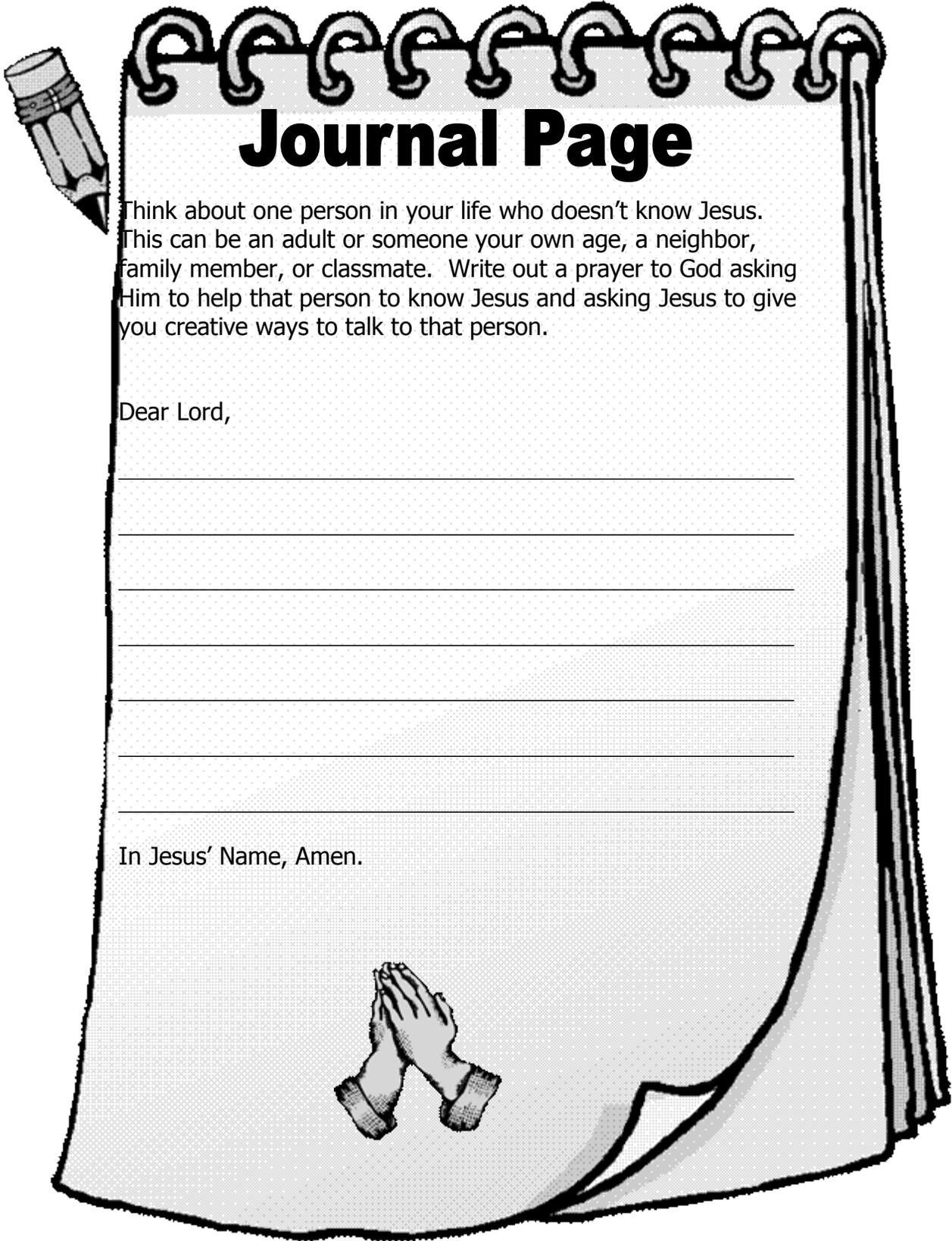
- ___ "Lazarus, come forth!"
- ___ "If only you had come sooner . . ."
- ___ "He's been dead four days and there's a bad odor."
- ___ He wept.
- ___ A friend of Jesus.

3. Solve the Message

 + **B** +  **U** + **R**

THE + **CHR** +  + **T**,

THE  **OF** + **GEODE** - **E** - **E**



Journal Page

Think about one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus. This can be an adult or someone your own age, a neighbor, family member, or classmate. Write out a prayer to God asking Him to help that person to know Jesus and asking Jesus to give you creative ways to talk to that person.

Dear Lord,

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

