

LIVING WITH JESUS

John 11:1-45 // Jesus and Lazarus

John 11 is the familiar story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This Gospel reading corresponds with the fifth Sunday in Lent. Here are some materials to help you create your own worship service.

MAIN THEME: *Where do you most need life, and how can you trust Jesus to give it?*

CHOOSING MUSIC // FOR SINGING

- 🎵 **10,000 Reasons** [Key of F/G]
Text and Music: Matt Redman, Jonas Myrin
© 2011 Thankyou Music, Said And Done Music , sixsteps, Music SHOUT! Publishing
- 🎵 **Everlasting God** [Key of Bb]
Text and Music: Brenton Brown, Ken Riley
© 2004 Thankyou Music
- 🎵 **God of Justice** [Key of F]
Text and Music: Tim Hughes
© 2004 Thankyou Music
- 🎵 **How Great Is Our God** [Key of Bb]
Text and Music: Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash
© 2004 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps music | wondrously made music
- 🎵 **Take My Life and Let It Be** [Key of D]
Text and Music: Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio
© 2003 worshiptogether.com songs | sixsteps music | wondrously made music
- 🎵 **Lazarus** // performed by Canopy Climbers.
This isn't necessary music your whole worshipping community will want to sing along with, but it's an interesting musical twist on a familiar gospel passage.

CREATING DRAMA // FOR HEARING

Read the scripture passage about Lazarus. Then, introduce and show the ten-minute video “You Get To” from Work of the People [workofthepeople.com] instead of preaching a long message. Use this video to prompt small group discussion about the individual, communal, local, national, and global places that need new life ... resurrection.

FINDING ART // FOR SEEING

Show images that reflect transformation from death to life. It can be some type of edited photography or it can be a professional painting.

Create your own art. Invite a painter in your worshiping community to create something on the theme “death to life.” Or, if you’re really bold, take worshipers on an outing to a pottery studio and let them bring dead clay to life by creating their own pottery.

LIVING WORSHIP // FOR DOING

Spring is coming, and so is Easter! The Lazarus story reminds us of that. Invite worshipers to submit – on social media – one picture a day that represents “life” to them.

MAKING SPACE // FOR WORSHIPING

Since this week’s worship is focused on the death and resurrection of Lazarus, keep rocks as a prominent part of the worship space. They will inform a possible guided prayer activity mentioned in poetry, as well as foreshadow the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ this season is pointing to.

WRITING POETRY// FOR PRAYING

Download and use this Guided Prayer Activity, Kingdom Stones, as part of your worship gathering (below.) In this activity, worshipers will have time to reflect on the Lazarus story using rocks. The rock represents the stone that Jesus invited the community to roll away so that Lazarus could be set free. The rock is to remind worshipers that they are called to participate in the work of the kingdom. Then, they will be asked to think about where God is working in their world and one way they can join that work. The rocks will remind worshipers they are called to help set others free in the name of Christ.

A Guided Prayer Activity Kingdom Stones

Overview

Worshipers will have time to reflect on the Lazarus story using rocks. The rock worshipers are given represents the stone that Jesus invited the community to roll away so that Lazarus could be set free. The rock is to remind them that they are called to participate in the work of the kingdom, and they will be asked to think about where God is working in their world. Then, they will be asked to write down one way they can join that work. The rocks will be used in church group devotions as a way to share their responses, and they will take the rocks home to remind them they are called to help set others free in the name of Christ.

Materials Needed

- Sharpie or permanent markers
- Smooth rocks in baskets
- Person to give instructions

Instructions to be given by leader

Tonight, you have an opportunity to respond to worship, the sermon, and really – your whole day - in a very tangible way. There is a basket at the end of each row with rocks and magic markers. Please take one rock and one marker from the basket and then pass the basket down the row. Leave the basket under the last chair for now.

[Allow time for worshippers to get these materials]

Say: You have heard the story of Lazarus. You have heard how Jesus invited the community to roll away the stone, unbind Lazarus, and set him free. You have seen a video on resurrection. You have seen how resurrection calls us all to participate in giving life to others.

The rock that you have in your hand right now represents the stone that kept Lazarus bound up after his death. Jesus called on the community of believers to participate in the work of the kingdom by inviting them to push the stone out of the way, unbind Lazarus, and set him free.

In the same way, Jesus invites us to participate in kingdom work. He invites us to experience work that is good and brings much joy. But, sometimes, Jesus invites us to participate in work that is hard, difficult, and may even bring pain.

Right now, think about the different ways that Jesus has invited you to participate in the work of the kingdom. Where can you serve? Where can you help people find their freedom in Christ? Where do you see God working, and how can you be a part of it?

On your rock, write down one way that you can be part of God's work beyond this weekend. When you go to your church group devotion, share what you wrote on your rock, and take your rock home as a reminder to you that Jesus wants us to participate in his work here on earth – unbinding people, and setting them free, so that God's kingdom can flourish in the world around us.

[Allow time for worshipers to complete this task as the worship leader plays and sings.]

SAMPLE WORSHIP SERVICE

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WELCOME

Say hi to other worshipers and welcome them in the name of Christ

LENT // JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

If Lent isn't common to your tradition, you might explain it at the end of the welcome and the beginning of worship.

SONG OF PRAISE

*How Great is Our God
Everlasting God*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

SONG OF THE KINGDOM

God of Justice

Intersperse three testimonies of worshipers between the choruses of this song. A few days before worship, ask them to prepare a response to the question, "How do you take part in the work of Jesus?"

Wrap up this testimony time by singing the final refrain of God of Justice.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 11:38-45

VIDEO INTRODUCTION

Briefly introduce the video "You Get To" by connecting the resurrection of Lazarus to the resurrection of Christ we are anticipating this season. And, remind us that resurrection is the promise of new life for us all.

VIDEO REFLECTIONS

"You Get To" by The Work of the People
A commentary on resurrection

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Prepare 3-4 questions for small group discussion based on the video "You Get To." Invite worshipers

to circle up in groups of 4-5 and discuss them. Choose older members of the worshipping community to facilitate.

SONG OF SERVICE

Take My Life

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

A Guided Prayer Activity // Kingdom Stones

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CLOSING SONG

God of Justice

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

One: Go in peace to love and serve.

All: **With God's help, we will.**