

Week 7: Jesus' Power Brings Hope

Scripture: Jesus Brings Lazarus Back to Life (John 11)

Supplies: none.

Minutes	Element	Description
2	Introduction	<p>(Introduce yourself.) I'm so excited to keep talking about how Jesus' power pulls us through, because today we're going to talk about something really cool: <u>Jesus' power brings hope!</u></p> <p>And you know what can keep our eyes on hope? God Sightings! Last time I asked you to keep an eye out for where God is working in the world and your life. Well, I did that, too, and here's a quick God sighting I'd like to share with you: (SHARE A RELATABLE, BRIEF GOD SIGHTING).</p> <p>That's me, but I'd love for you to share your God Sightings, too. How about you take turns sharing and, when you've finished, start this video back up. I'll wait for you...</p>
2	Family Discussion	<p>Thanks for sharing, friends.</p> <p>You know, where I live there are a lot of angry and frustrated people around right now. Maybe that's true where you live, too.</p> <p>Some grownups are angry they can't go to work to earn money to care for themselves and their families. Kids are frustrated they can't get together with friends, play sports, or even go to school. And if you've been cooped up with your family for a few weeks, maybe things are tense at home, too.</p> <p>So let's talk about that. Here's a question for you to discuss as a family:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's made you angry, frustrated, or tense during this Coronavirus situation? <p>I'll put the question on the screen, and you pause and take a few minutes to discuss it...</p>
3.5	Music Video	<p>Thanks for talking about that.</p> <p>You know, when you're stuck or disappointed it's easy to become frustrated or angry. And that's okay—you feel what you feel. But it's</p>

		<p>what you <i>do</i> when you're frustrated or angry that can really turn things around.</p> <p>Everyone on your feet. It's time to shake and shimmy some of those blues away as we join some friends who've figured out what to do when they're facing hard times!</p> <p>No Matter What I'm Facing (Provide this link in a comment or description under your video.) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cd1qkujmFSE</p>
8	Bible Story	<p>Whew! "God gives me joy in every situation, keeps my spirits high no matter what I'm facing." That's what I want, but sometimes that's not how I feel. And I'm not alone.</p> <p>Let me tell you about some friends of Jesus: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. You can find their true story in the Bible book of John, chapter 11.</p> <p>Lazarus got sick and his sisters, Mary and Martha, knew that <u>Jesus' power brings hope</u>...so they hoped Jesus could heal him. They sent a messenger to find Jesus in a nearby city and then they took care of Lazarus as they waited for Jesus to arrive.</p> <p>But, day by day, Lazarus grew weaker...and Jesus didn't come. Mary and Martha couldn't understand why—Jesus loved Lazarus and they knew Jesus could help. Where was he?</p> <p>I think they felt that...wait: I'll show you. When I count to three, I want you to take a deep breath and hold it. I'll let you know when it's okay to breathe again. Ready? One, two, three...</p> <p>I think Mary and Martha were standing by the door, looking up the road, expecting that at any moment Jesus would appear and he'd make everything right again. But...um, just a moment... (Pull out phone. Pretend to text for a while, maybe take selfies, play a game...something where you clearly got distracted. After a minute or so, look up.)</p> <p>Oops! Breathe! Everybody breathe! Sorry...I got distracted and forgot about you!</p> <p>I think that's what Mary and Martha thought about Jesus, too: that he didn't care. That he got busy, forgot them, or didn't even notice Lazarus was dying.</p>

So while Mary and Martha were waiting for Jesus to come help, Lazarus died and was buried. How angry Mary and Martha must have felt! How hurt that their friend didn't come through for them.

Make a tight fist like this... even tighter. (Demonstrate.) Hold your fist really tight. Think about how angry you get when people are mean to you. Or how angry you are when you feel stuck or forgotten or ignored. Think about what you shared earlier when I asked what's made you angry.

Dig your fingernails into your palms. Feel how tight and tense your arms are. It's starting to hurt, isn't it? Grrrrr... Keep holding it!

So, back to Mary and Martha. Jesus finally showed up, and they were angry with him! They asked why he had waited so long.

But Jesus didn't disappoint. Jesus went to where Lazarus was buried and had some men roll away the stone in front of his tomb. Jesus called out to Lazarus to rise from the dead—and that's what Lazarus did. That's power...and that's hope.

The Bible says that Jesus wasn't late—he waited on purpose because he wanted to do something even more amazing than just heal a sick Lazarus. He wanted to raise someone from the dead!

When Mary and Martha saw that Jesus' power brings hope, even when it seems like it's too late...well, they let go of their anger and found hope instead.

So, relax your fists and let your hands slowly open. (Demonstrate.)

Ahhhh...that's how it feels when you let go of your anger. When you look for joy and hope in every situation, when you let God lift your spirits no matter what you're facing.

Maybe you know someone who's sick with Coronavirus. Maybe they've gotten better and maybe they haven't. Maybe you've prayed that you can get back to living like you lived before the virus swept through the world. Maybe you're angry because you had a baseball tournament or a birthday party cancelled because of Coronavirus. And you're wondering...where is Jesus? Maybe you're a little angry because it feels like he's too late to help you.

Remember this: Jesus wasn't late for Lazarus, and he's not late answering your prayers. Jesus had a better plan when his friend Lazarus was ill. Jesus was in charge. He's still in charge. He still has a plan. Jesus' power brings hope.

	<p>ON SCREEN: How can you as a family put your trust in Jesus? How can you experience more of the hope Jesus offers?</p>	<p>Mary and Martha got angry, but Jesus didn't walk away from them because of their anger. Instead, he drew close and gave them hope. He'll give you hope, too. And along with that hope, peace.</p> <p>Even in these Coronavirus times.</p> <p>(Ask these questions and direct families to pause after each.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did holding a fist remind you of how it feels to hold onto anger? • How can you as a family experience let go of anger and find more of the hope Jesus offers?
4	<p>Science Fun</p> <p>ON SCREEN: Image that turns into Jesus [PROVIDED].</p>	<p>Thanks for sharing your thoughts.</p> <p>Let's take a few moments to see what happens when we focus on Jesus' hope...</p> <p>[Put Image on screen.]</p> <p>See this picture? Doesn't look like much, does it? There's four dots in the middle, and four letters in the word "hope." So focus on the four dots in the middle until I take the image down. Really stare at those dots, and try to blink as little as possible.</p> <p>[Keep image up for thirty seconds.]</p> <p>Okay now quick, look at a blank wall! What do you see? Keep looking at the wall...it might take a few seconds...</p> <p>Do you see him? Do you see Jesus? When we took time to focus on the four dots...which remind us of the four letters in the word "hope," we could see Jesus! When we take the time to look for him, we'll see Jesus all around us!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we look for Jesus even when we're angry? <p><u>Jesus' power brings hope.</u> And when we focus on the hope that he can do something even greater than what it seems like he's too late for, we'll see him at work.</p>
5	<p>Closing/prayer</p>	<p>I have a request for you: Would you take a few minutes and each share what you're hoping for? What is it you hope will happen? Tell each other and then pray for what each person said. You can pause me while you do that—I'll wait.</p>

		<p>You've been keeping a Thankfulness Journal and it's time to fill another page. Draw things you were hoping God would do for you that he <i>has</i> done. For instance, maybe you hoped you'd be able to find some rolls of toilet paper—and you did. You hoped you'd have enough food during a time when you couldn't go out to buy more—and you were okay. Focusing on how God's hope has come through will remind you that <u>Jesus' power brings hope</u>.</p> <p>I'm signing off, but when the video ends, you can draw a couple of things you hoped for that you're thankful happened. Don't forget to put today's date on your paper!</p>
Est.Total: 25 minutes		