

God of new life, grant life to all those who live in darkness, fear, loneliness or in tombs created by the troubles of our world. Resurrect us, restore us, and give us new life, for you promise us all life abundant. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Whereas the Old Testament didn't really have many stories of Resurrection as we like to think of it. The New Testament does have stories of those who die being restored to life.

Day 1 Read Mark 5:21-34

1a. Read verses 22-23. What is happening in these verses? What attracted the attention of Jesus to this situation?

b. Read verses 24-27. What shift of focus occurs in the text?

2. How long had the woman suffered from her affliction? Why is this detail important?

3a. Describe how this woman is healed?

b. How did the woman respond to Jesus inquiring who touched him? Why was she so afraid? What did Jesus say to her?

Day 2 Read Mark 5:35-43

4a. Read verse 35. What had taken place while Jesus mission to cure Jairus' daughter had been interrupted by the woman with bleeding?

b. What was Jesus' words of assurance to Jarius in verse 36?

5. Jesus calls the woman bleeding "daughter." Jesus heals Jarius' daughter. What is special about the use of "daughter" in these stories.

Day 3 Read Luke 7:11-17

6a. What does Jesus discover as he approaches the town of Nain?

b. How is this young man and his mother described in verse 12 and why are those two details so important to the story?

7. Jesus touches the bier the dead son is laying on. Now this would have been a violation of Jewish purity laws, but as the Son of God, it is also a statement about Jesus/God and death. In spite of Jewish laws, what is Jesus saying about himself in the midst of death?

8a. What was the emotional and verbal response to all who witnessed to the raising of the widow's son?

b. We have heard this story before (see 1 Kings 17:8-24). Why is it significant that we have almost the exact same resurrection story in the Old Testament and New Testament?

Day 4 Read John 11:1-16

9. What do you think Jesus was implying by using the word *sleep* for death (vv. 11, 13)? See also John 5:28-29.

10. How does Jesus respond in verses 14-15 to the disciples' misunderstanding about Lazarus' sleeping? How do you feel about Jesus' statement?

Day 5 Read John 11:17-37

11. Many Jews superstitiously believed that the soul remained near the body for three days after death in the hope of returning to it. This being the case, what would have been indicated by the fact that this was the "fourth" day?

12. After reading verses 21-27, describe Martha's faith. Despite her words, what do you think was her struggle?

13. Verse 35 is the shortest verse in the Bible. What comfort for someone who is grieving do you see in this verse?

Day 6 Read John 11:38-44

14. Why do you think Jesus asked that the stone be taken away from Lazarus's tomb (v.39)?

15. Contrast Martha's objection in verse 39 with her faith in verse 22. Do you think she wavered in her faith that Jesus could raise her brother?

16. In what way is the raising of Lazarus a foretaste of an even greater resurrection what will take place? See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.