

# Family Faith at Home



## *Make Sunday Come Alive All Week!*

The Department of Youth Faith Formation wants to help you and your whole family explore God's Word in your lives. Each week we will be sending out this resource which can help you reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings with your entire family.

Here are some ideas on how to use this resource:

- Consider reading one of the mass readings each evening.
- Do the discussion questions after dinner one night.
- Watch the video on a different night.
- Pray the prayer each evening.



## *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

### **Mass Readings:**

Ezekiel 37: 12-14

Psalms 129: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4c-6, 7-8

Romans 8: 8-11

John 11: 1-45

[Readings can also be found at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.](#)

### *Discuss*

After reading the Sunday readings, discuss as a family:

1. Many people didn't understand why Jesus did not leave right away when he heard how ill his friend Lazarus was. These people had seen Jesus heal the sick, so why wouldn't he keep his friend Lazarus from dying? So why do you think Jesus let Lazarus die?
2. Sometimes we don't understand why God doesn't answer our prayers the way we think he should. Why do you think God allows us to have problems in our everyday lives?
3. As a child you don't always know where your parents are taking you, but you know that they love you and will keep you safe. We may not know where God the Father is leading us, or how things are going to turn out so why should we trust that God will take care of us?

### *Share*

Mary, her sister Martha and their friends had seen Jesus heal people. The Israelites had waited many years for the Messiah and the people following him now believed that he might be the Messiah. They also believed in the resurrection of our body and soul into heaven, but had not seen any proof. When Jesus did not rush to go heal his friend, people wondered why, but when He finally went, and they followed him. There in Bethany, they experienced Jesus—the Son of God—calling him back to life. How long do you think those people gathered and talked about what they had seen, and how happy they were that God let them see this? Do you think some were so amazed that they were just in shock and didn't speak at all? I wonder how many just put their hands up in the air and praised and thanked God for showing them that they would live eternally in heaven with Him.

### *Watch*

For families with small children, [watch this video.](#)

For families with older children, [watch this video.](#)

### *Pray*

*A Prayer to St. Lazarus*

Dear patron and assistant of the poor and sick,  
with this prayer we request your assistance,  
and with the aid of the Holy Spirit,  
may the Lord always protect us during sickness or in health.  
St. Lazarus give us the strength  
to overcome all the temptations on earth  
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### *Do*

As a family, pray for those who are sick or alone. If you know someone who has lost a loved one during Covid, send them a card or draw them a picture. Or call them and let them know that you are praying for them. If there is a nursing home near you, send them a card or two that they can deliver to a patient that doesn't have a family. If it is possible you may want to send some fruit or other small gift. An alternative is to give to the poor with money or food.

