

5th SUNDAY CYCLE A TEEN groups

Materials: Bible, crucifix, candle, bed sheet, rope, prop for burial stone, scissors, meditative music

Opening Prayer: Dear Jesus, you came to earth as our friend to help us live life to the fullest. You have asked us to be your partners in bringing this good news of freedom to others. Amen.

Reading Scripture: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Psalm 130:1-8; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45

Let's Reflect & Explore!

Teens will enact a short skit on the raising of Lazarus. Characters needed: Jesus, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, and people.

Drape a sheet over Lazarus and tie him up. Position Lazarus behind the burial stone prop.

Martha: Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

Jesus: Your brother will rise.

Friends help friends.

Martha: I know he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.

Jesus: I am the resurrection and the life. They walk to the tomb.

Jesus: Take away the stone. People remove the burial stone.

Jesus: Lazarus come out! Lazarus comes out.

Jesus: Untie him and let him go. The people untie Lazarus.

Let's Talk!

Form small groups and discuss the following.

1. Jesus responded to the plea of his friends Martha and Mary to heal their brother. What are some qualities of a good friend? Discuss. *Friends help friends.* What does this mean to you? Discuss. When has a family member or a friend helped you, and when have you helped someone? Share.
2. Jesus told the people to move the stone, untie Lazarus, and let him go even though he had the power to do this himself. Why do you think Jesus used others to free Lazarus? Discuss.
3. We have the great privilege to be partners with Jesus in helping others. What organizations in your community or parish are providing some help? Discuss. How have you helped people in need? Share. What more can you do? Discuss.
4. After Lazarus was raised from the dead, he had a second chance at life. Share some stories that tell about second chances. If you had a second chance (brought back to life), what would you do differently? Share.

Let's Live It!

Select one or more actions and be prepared to share next week.

1. As a friend, offer help and comfort to someone who may be going through a difficult time in his/her life.
2. A *Corporal Work of Mercy* is to visit the sick. As a group or individually, visit a shut-in, sick friend, or someone in a nursing home or hospital.
3. Volunteer at a soup kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, or another organization that helps people in need.
4. Send a card of comfort to someone who has recently experienced the death of someone close.
5. Prepare a food basket and give it to a family who needs help.
6. Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week or sometime before Easter.
7. Pray the Memory Verse each day.

Let's Pray!

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, candle, and rope. Play soft music.

Everyone individually approaches the prayer table, cuts a piece of rope, and prays, "Thank you, Jesus, for setting me free."

All: Jesus, may our lives reflect the reality that

you have called us to be partners with you in the mission of bringing the good news of salvation to others. Amen.

Conclude by singing "They Will Know We Are Christians by our Love" or another appropriate hymn. Everyone extends a sign of peace.