

JESUS GIVES LIFE

READ FOR YOURSELF: John 11:17-44

Jesus is called to Bethany, a village near Jerusalem. Lazarus is ill. He and his his sisters, Martha and Mary, are friends of Jesus. When Jesus arrives in the village, he hears that Lazarus was buried four days ago...



If you had been here, my brother would not have died!



Your brother shall rise again, Martha.



Yes, I know. He will live again at the resurrection on the last day.



I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live. Do you believe that Martha?

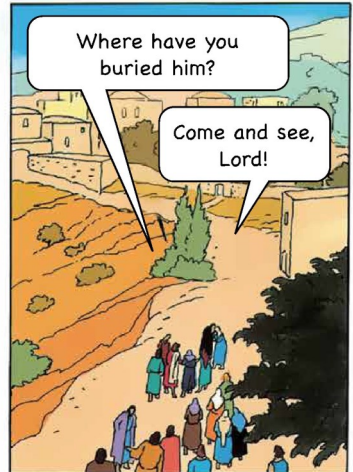


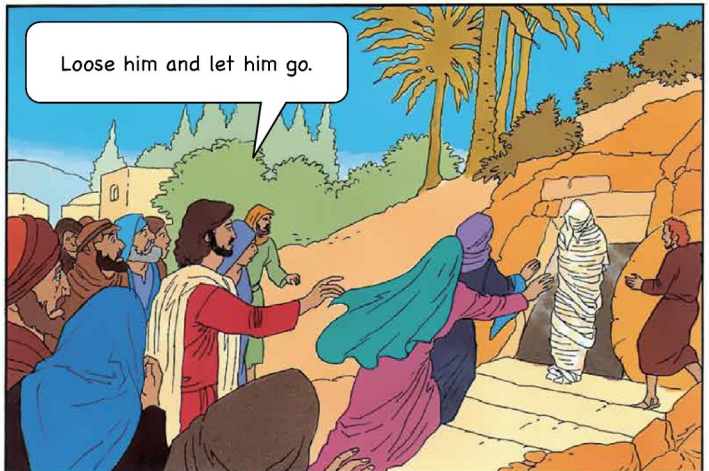
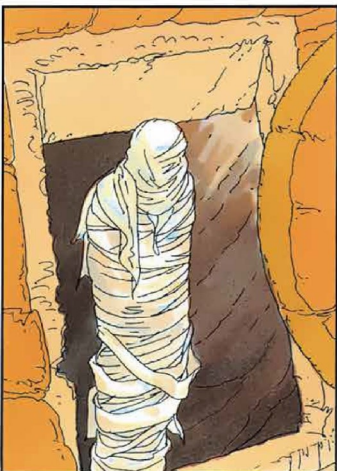
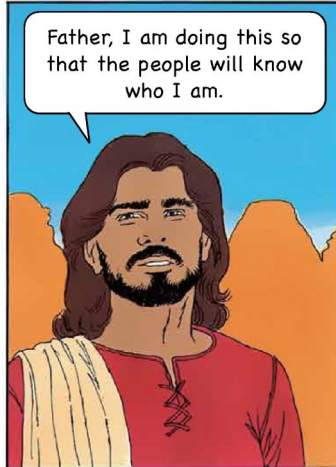
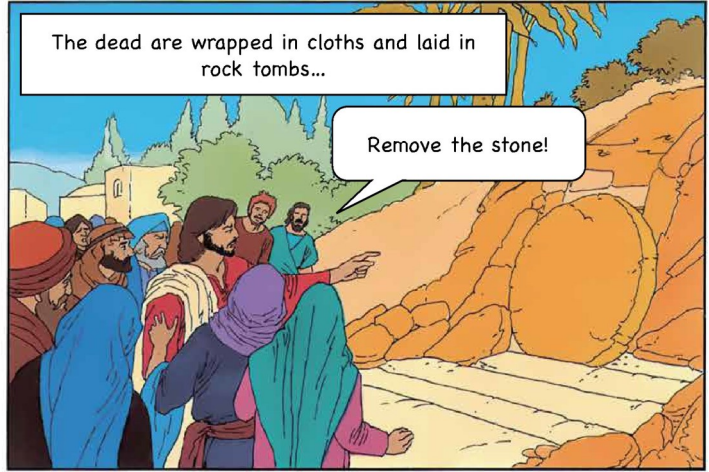
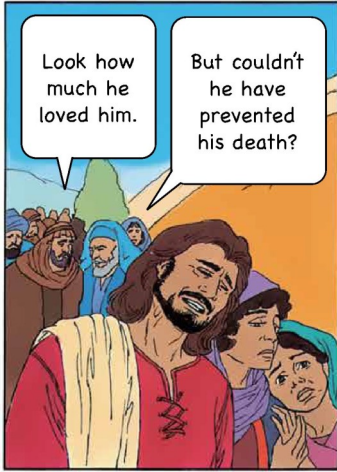
Yes Lord! I believe that you are the promised messiah who was to come. The Son of God.



Where have you buried him?

Come and see, Lord!





JESUS GIVES LIFE

Bethany is a village about 3 kilometres from Jerusalem. Here the Lord Jesus is in dangerous territory, because the Jewish leaders from the capital city want to arrest Him. But Jesus does not allow Himself to be dissuaded from visiting his friends.

He knows the house of Martha and Mary well. He has been there in the past with His disciples. On that visit, Martha had been caring for the guests. Mary had sat near Jesus' feet to listen to Him. Jesus had said Mary has chosen the right thing. (Luke 10:38-42). But now their brother Lazarus has died. They have wrapped his dead body in strips of cloth and laid it in a tomb in the rock.

Sooner or later everyone meets the point of death. But God never intended it that way. Death is the result of sin. But God has Himself provided a solution. Jesus says to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life." Death is not the end of everything. Jesus can give you everlasting life.

In doing so Jesus is performing a wonderful miracle. He shows in that way that indeed He has all power over life and death!

MEMORY VERSE

*"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me will live, even though they die."
(John 11:25)*

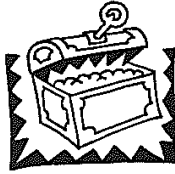
WHO IS JESUS?

Life

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me." (John 14:6).

Jesus gives people life, because He is Life. He has been raised from the dead in order to give us everlasting life. When you have discovered that truth, you cannot remain silent about it anymore.

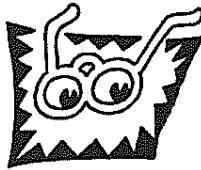
Therefore John says:
"We write to you about the Word of life, which has existed from the very beginning. We have heard it, and we have seen it with our eyes; yes, we have seen it, and our hands have touched it. When this life became visible, we saw it; so we speak of it and tell you about the eternal life which was with the Father and was made known to us." (1 John 1:1-2).



OLD TREASURES

The prophet Ezekiel, about 600 years before Christ, has an impressive vision (a kind of dream while you are awake). The vision shows that God's voice has the power to bring the dead back to life. Ezekiel sees a valley full of bones of dead people. In what seems like a film in reverse, the bones come back together to form skeletons and then are covered with flesh. Then God breathes his Spirit into all those people!

God said to me, "Mortal man, prophesy to the wind. Tell the wind that the Sovereign Lord commands it to come from every direction, to breathe into these dead bodies, and to bring them back to life." (Ezekiel 37:9).



EXTRA INFORMATION

Burial

In warm countries, the body of a person who has died soon begins to decay. That is why the dead person is buried immediately, on the same day as the death. Before burial, the body is covered with fragrant balsam, to dispel the smell of death. It also is wrapped in linen cloths. Spices are put between the layers of cloth.

Wealthy people possess a grave carved in the rock. The grave has rooms, in which the dead bodies get laid on stone benches against the wall. The opening of the grave is closed off with a large flat stone, which after three days gets cemented in place.

LIVE A LIFE THAT IS ETERNAL

The Lord Jesus shows that He is boss of all things. Even of death. That is why you never need to be afraid of death.

Do you believe that you can have everlasting life with Jesus? And that you will soon see Him as He is? You can really long for that.

It is wonderful that you can already get to know Him well now. The Lord Jesus said that "eternal life means knowing me and knowing, the only true God" (John 17:3). Everlasting life has already started!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. How long has Lazarus been lying in the grave by the time Jesus arrives in Bethany?

2. Do you see in the picture story how a grave in the rock gets closed off?

3. How can you tell by looking at Jesus in one of the pictures that He really loves Lazarus?

4. How does Jesus show that He has all power over life and death?

5. Why does Jesus perform this miracle (John 11:42, 45)?

6. With what does God make the dead to live again in Ezekiel's vision:

- a) With a Big Bang.
- b) With His Word.
- c) With a magic wand.

7. How is it possible to have died and still be living (John 11:23-26):

- a) You are not really alive, you become a spirit
- b) Jesus gives you back your life
- c) You appear in a different form in another living being

BIBLE READING

Sun	John 11:17-44
Mon	Luke 7:11-17
Tue	Mark 5:35-43
Wed	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Thu	John 5:17-29
Fri	John 14:1-7
Sat	1 John 1:1-4



ACTION POINT!

Create a comic strip with yourself as follows:

- a. Draw the border of a rectangular comic strip picture (don't make it too small).
- b. Draw a big speech balloon at the top.
- c. Draw yourself under the speech balloon.
- d. Write Martha's statement of belief from John 11:27 in the speech balloon.

Her creed has now become your own creed!