



Week 6 Secret word: **Lazarus**

John 11:43b (NIV)

Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

Lazarus was a special friend of Jesus.

Lazarus lives in a town called Bethany with his sisters Mary and Martha.

Jesus often visits Bethany and he often stays with Lazarus and his sisters.

He loves them a lot.

Martha is a busy person. She cooks for Jesus and cleans the house so Jesus will feel comfortable and welcome.

Mary is quieter. She prays with Jesus and washes his feet, and just sits with him. You can imagine why Jesus spends time with these friends- they let him rest and relax.

So when Lazarus gets sick, Mary and Martha just take care of Lazarus. They all know that Jesus would come and heal him if they asked, but it doesn't seem that bad, and Jesus is away. They won't bother Jesus.

But Lazarus isn't getting better. He keeps getting worse. So finally, Martha and Mary send for Jesus.

When their message gets to Jesus, he doesn't start out right away for Bethany. He waits for two days.

Finally, Jesus tells his disciples that they need to go. They need to bring the Light of God to help his friend Lazarus.

Jesus tells the disciples that Lazarus is already sleeping in death, but they will be able to see Lazarus rise again.

Now the disciples believe that Jesus brings eternal life, so they are not surprised to hear that Lazarus will rise again. They expect to meet Lazarus in heaven. But they don't expect to meet Lazarus again on earth.

When they come near to Mary and Martha's house, Martha runs out to tell them that Lazarus died four days ago and is already in a stone tomb. She was sorry Jesus had not come sooner to save him, but she still believed in Jesus' power and love.

Jesus told Martha to get Mary so they can visit Lazarus' tomb.

Mary kneels in front of Jesus. She says she knows that if Jesus had been there, Lazarus wouldn't have died.

Jesus cried with Mary and Martha. He joined their suffering and sadness.

Then Jesus went to the tomb with Mary and Martha and a group of their friends.

Jesus told them to open it up and roll away the stone door.

Martha reminded Jesus that it was already too late to save Lazarus.

Jesus told them to keep believing and to expect the Glory of God. Jesus called into the open tomb, "Lazarus, come out." And Lazarus did- still wrapped in burial cloths, but alive again after four days in death.

Now even more crowds of people came to follow Jesus and to see Lazarus too.

Lazarus was living proof that Jesus was stronger than death.

During Lent, we especially remember that Jesus suffers with us and brings us out of death into life.

