

WEEK 4: GOD KNOWS YOUR PAIN

Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Then Jesus wept. – John 11:35

Read: John 11:1-44

Someone who had recently lost a loved one summed up people's responses this way: "Some people aren't able to show up. Some show up and have no idea what to say. And some show up, have no idea what to say, but they sit with you and cry with you and say, 'I love you.' Those are your true friends." There are times in life when the pain is too deep for words and any attempt to say the "right" thing will fall flat. In those times, what people really need is empathy. Someone to sit with and cry with them. Someone to share in their pain.

Empathy is our ability to understand and share the feelings of another. It goes beyond sympathy, which is simply feeling pity for someone. Empathy gets down in the muck of grief with someone else and says "I want to feel your pain. I want to help you carry it."

John 11:35 is one of the shortest verses in the Bible. It simply says, "Then Jesus wept." Why? Why would he weep when he knew this story was going to have a happy ending? One logical speculation is that he was feeling the pain of his beloved friends Mary and Martha after their brother's death. He was sad because they were sad. He had empathy. The obvious miracle of this passage is that Jesus raised a dead man to life. But it's also pretty miraculous that we get a glimpse of Jesus, fully God and fully man, weeping. The God we worship is not a distant, faraway, aloof God. He is a God who became like us, experienced emotions, and felt our pain. He is a God who can empathize with us.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Think about a time when you were grieving. What were some things others did that were helpful to you? What wasn't helpful?
2. Who do you know who is hurting right now?
3. What practical steps can you take to let them know that you are "with them" in their pain?



EMOTIONS PLAYDOUGH MAT

Jesus had emotions just like we do. He shows us that we can care about other people's emotions, too. Use this craft as a way to help your child identify different emotions people may feel so they can care for other people's emotions like Jesus.



DIRECTIONS

PREP

1. Print out the Emotions Mat printable.
 - Option: Create your own mat using the printable as a guide.
2. Make homemade playdough:
 - a. Mix together all ingredients *except* food coloring.
 - b. Once it has cooled, knead with your hands until you have playdough consistency.
 - c. Divide dough into smaller dough balls for the different colors you want to make.
 - d. Place dough ball in a Ziploc bag or bowl and add food coloring. Knead until you make the desired color.

DO

1. Give your child the playdough mat and some playdough.
2. Show them the sample emotions around the placemat.
3. Have your child use playdough to make facial features and expressions for the different emotions.

SUPPLIES NEEDED



Emotions Mat
printable



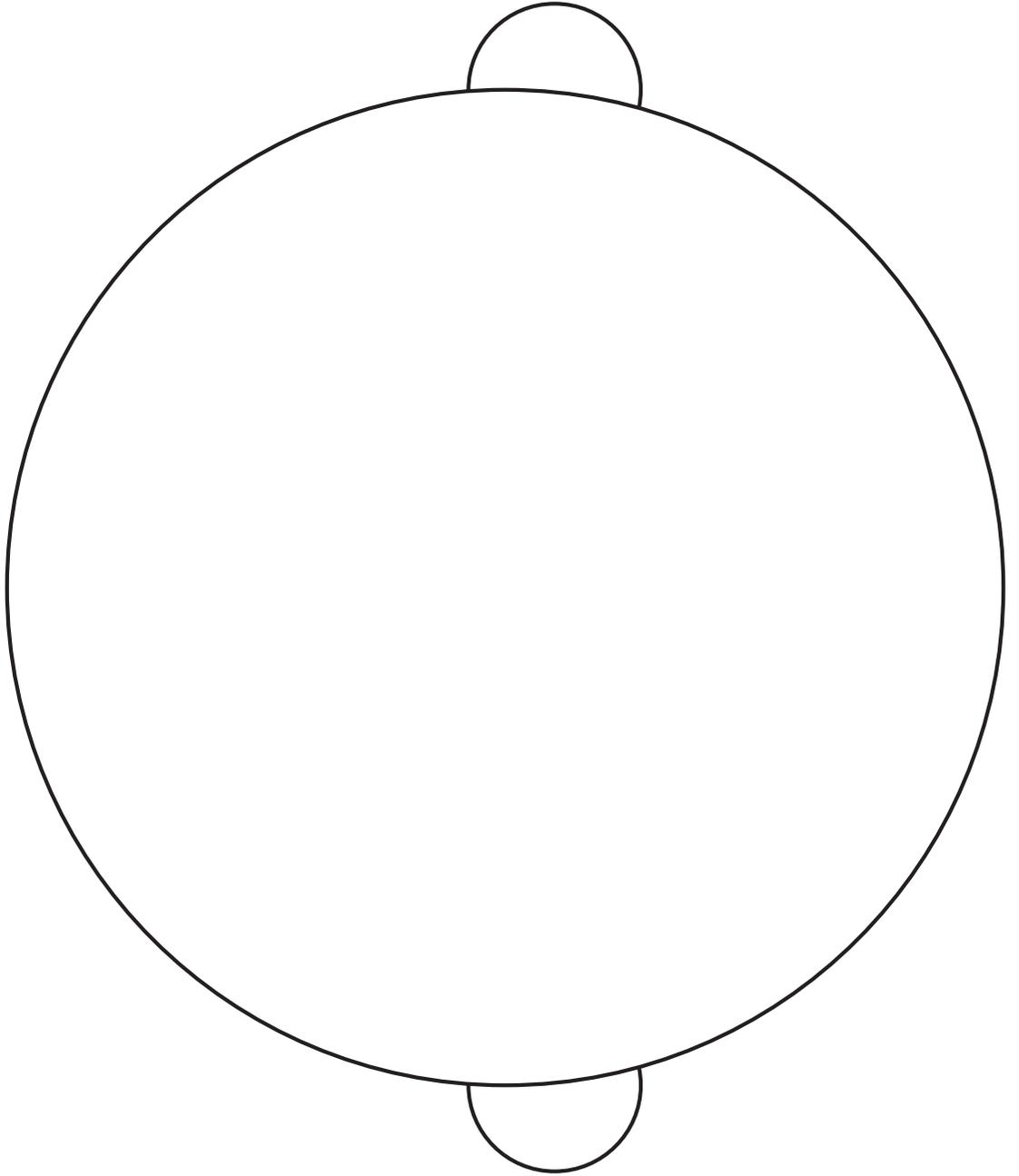
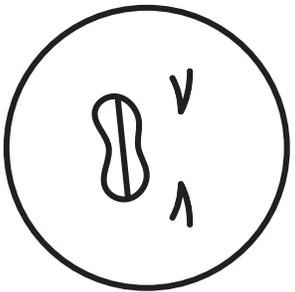
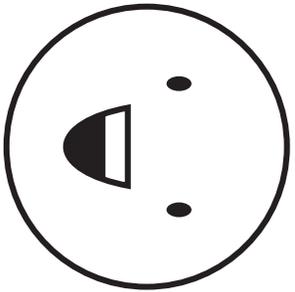
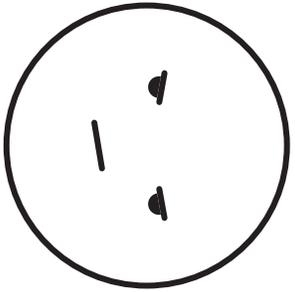
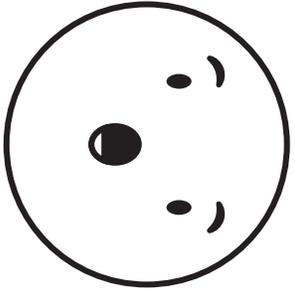
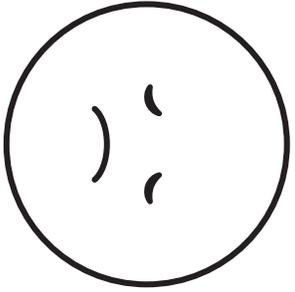
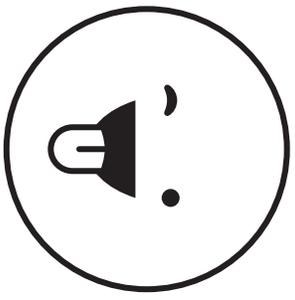
Playdough

Homemade Playdough Supplies

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - 2 C Flour | - 2 C Boiling Water |
| - ¼ C Salt | |
| - 4 Teaspoons Cream of Tartar | - 2 Teaspoons Canola or Vegetable oil |
| - Ziploc bag | - Food Coloring |

TALKING POINTS

- Identify an emotion and ask:
 - If you feel _____, what would you like someone to do for you?
 - If someone feels _____, what is a way you can show them you care about their feelings?

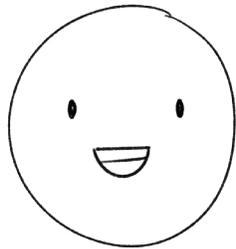




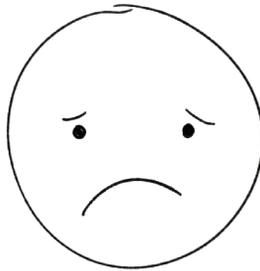
I can care about people's feelings!

There are many different feelings. I can show people I love them when I show them I care about their feelings. Help someone with what they're feeling by cutting out a picture and putting it underneath the different feelings. Each picture shows a way to help show someone you care about their feelings!

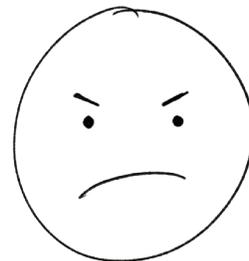
When someone feels...



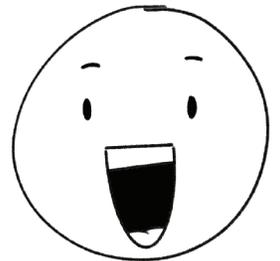
happy



sad

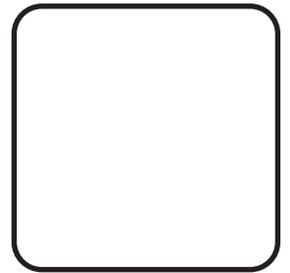
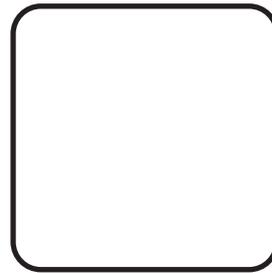
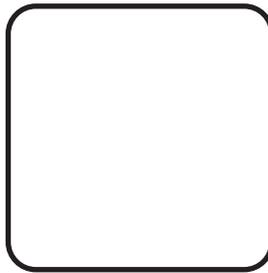
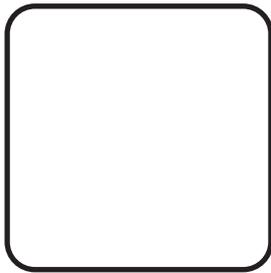


angry

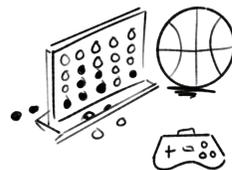


excited

I can...



high five



play a game



pray



read the Bible



Jesus Raises Lazarus
from the Dead
John 11:1-44



MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

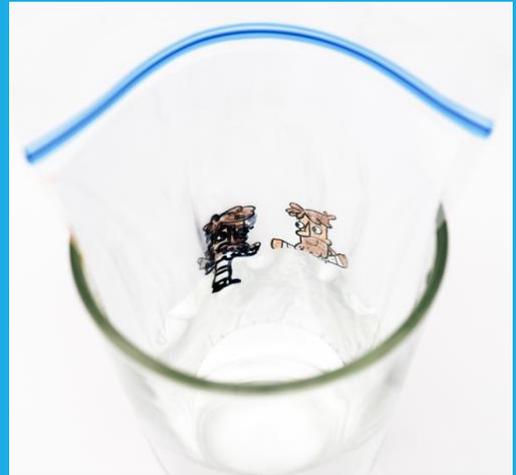
ACTIVITY | LESSON 4

WATER ACTIVITY: JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

In this activity, your child will get to do a water experiment that shows us things aren't always as they seem. This activity reminds your child of the Bible story. When Mary and Martha thought Lazarus was dead, Jesus brought him back to life!

DIRECTIONS

1. Print the Jesus Raises Lazarus printable or use it as a guide to create your own drawing.
2. Color the printable using crayons or markers.
3. Place the printable inside a Ziploc bag with the image upright, making sure the image is all the way against the bottom corner of the bag.
4. Seal the Ziploc bag.
5. Trace only the Jesus portion of the image in black permanent marker on the front of the Ziplock bag.
6. Fill a glass or clear cup $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.
7. Slowly submerge the Ziploc bag upright in the glass of water.
8. While submerging the bag, **look at the glass of water from above**. When the bag is under the water, Lazarus disappears. When the bag is above water, you can see both Jesus and Lazarus.
9. Repeat as needed, reminding your child that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead!



SUPPLIES NEEDED



Jesus Raises
Lazarus
printable



Glass
of
water



Ziploc bag



Black
permanent
marker



Crayons or
markers

TEACHING CONNECTION

God created us in his image to care about other people's feelings. He cared about Mary and Martha's feelings, so we can care about everyone's feelings, too!

