

I am the Resurrection and the Life

- **Ask:** What's your favourite animal/creature?
- **Activity:** Gather or find pictures of some living things and non-living things - e.g. plants, different animals, a pencil, a pen, a teddy, a bike, a chair etc. Allow the children to look at the objects and pictures and talk to them about how we know something is living. Living things grow and some of them breath oxygen/air, plants absorb carbon dioxide. Non-living things don't grow or move on their own. Can the children put all the living things together and the non-living thing together. Can the children see any differences between things that are alive and things that are not?
- **Sing:** Our God is a Great Big God available at https://youtu.be/uZNVaBNzs_Q, or Jesus Love is Very Wonderful at <https://youtu.be/VC4eb8Pk-3g> or Wiggle Freeze at https://youtu.be/tM_wGFVBBmA or Wiggle like a Worm at <https://youtu.be/YenZbKXjYg>.
- **Talk:** We are continuing with Jesus' seven 'I am' statements. We've looked at 'I am the vine' and 'I am the bread of life'. This week we are looking at 'I am the resurrection and the life' (John 11:25-26). Jesus says this just before he raises Lazarus.
- **Watch or Read:** Jesus makes Lazarus live on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Zjo4Gckfj0E>, or Lottie's 'I am the resurrection and the life' on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfoRgvwNoapVwiU5UCF2ZMg>, or read John 11 at <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=john+11&version=NIV>
- **Discuss:** It's very sad when people we know or pets we have die. In fact, losing someone we love is about the toughest thing to cope with in life. But this story of Lazarus being raised from the dead by Jesus gives us a picture of what Jesus will do for all of us when we die. Except rather than raising us back from the dead in this life, Jesus gives us something even better – new life with him in heaven!

Perhaps think about it this way... While we are here on earth, we are like caterpillars in our caterpillar bodies (show a picture or puppet caterpillar). Being a caterpillar is good fun as we get to enjoy living in this world, hanging out with other caterpillars & eating all sorts of nice things! Sooner or later, though, our caterpillar bodies will get worn out. This can be very sad, as when people's bodies get worn out, they die, & we have to say goodbye to them for a while. It's a bit like when a caterpillar turns into a chrysalis – they stop being a caterpillar, & instead are wrapped up and placed in the ground.

However, Jesus never stops loving people, and even though we can't see them anymore because they've died, we know that what makes them 'them' - we might say their personality, their soul, their spirit – that part of them goes to live with Jesus in heaven. The really good news, though, is that in heaven Jesus gives people a new body. If we imagine that people had bodies like caterpillars in this life, in heaven they get a new body as beautiful as... a butterfly!

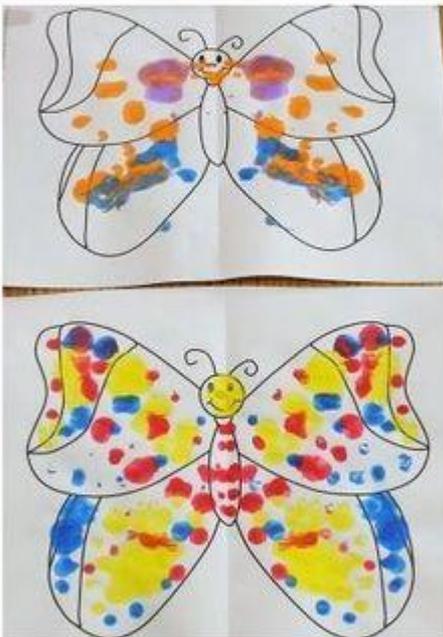
Here's a video to help you understand this change <https://youtu.be/kVm5k99PnBk>.

When Jesus says 'I am the resurrection and the life', it means that we can trust him that even though we will all eventually die in this life when our bodies get worn out, Jesus knows how to give us new bodies – as beautiful as butterflies – in heaven. And being a butterfly in heaven will be even better than being a caterpillar here on earth!

Jesus gives us a new life that lasts forever so we don't need to fear or be afraid of anything - not even death – because Jesus is more powerful than anything, even death! This week, perhaps you can try to give all your fears to Jesus and trust that he has power over everything. I wonder what might happen when we do this?

- **Prayer:** Dear Jesus, Thank you that you are the resurrection and the life. Thank you that even though our bodies will one day die, you promise to give us new life and beautiful new bodies with you and each other in heaven. Please help us to give our fears to you and trust that you are bigger than life's worries. Amen.
- Is there anything that the children would like to pray about?
- **Paint: Butterfly Prints:** You will need: A3/A4 paper, pencil, scissors, paintbrush, colourful paints, holepunch and ribbon. Fold the paper in half and draw half a butterfly on one side at the fold (you may need to help the children do this or you could prepare the butterflies beforehand). Then cut the butterfly out. Keeping the butterfly in half, ask the children to decorate one side of the butterfly with paint. Encourage the children to make patterns etc with the paint. When the child is finished unfold the butterfly and fold it over so the painted side prints onto the otherside of the butterfly to make a symmetrical butterfly. Put a hole punch hole in the head of the butterfly, and thread the ribbon through so you can hang your butterfly up.
- **Make: A Tree of Life:** You will need paper, brown fab foam/felt, green, orange, yellow, red and pink foam/felt/tissue paper, flower stickers, felt pen. Help the children to draw and cut out a tree trunk with branches on the brown foam/felt. Then depending on the season encourage the children to draw, make and cut out green/red/yellow and orange leaves. If its spring or summer encourage the children to make some buds and flowers to go onto the tree. You could collect leaves and flowers from outside and put them on your trees instead. With a felt pen write: "I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25-26). Or you could use a tree template.
- **Activity:** Print out the attached sheets and colour the pictures, do the mazes, crosswords, word searches and anagrams.
- **Play:** Water play encourage the children to play with the water using food colouring to change the colour. What happens when you mix yellow and blue, yellow and red, blue and red, green and red etc?
- **Enjoy a drink and biscuit!**

Paint and fold butterfly



Paint & Fold
Butterfly
Symmetry
Artwork





Nature Tree



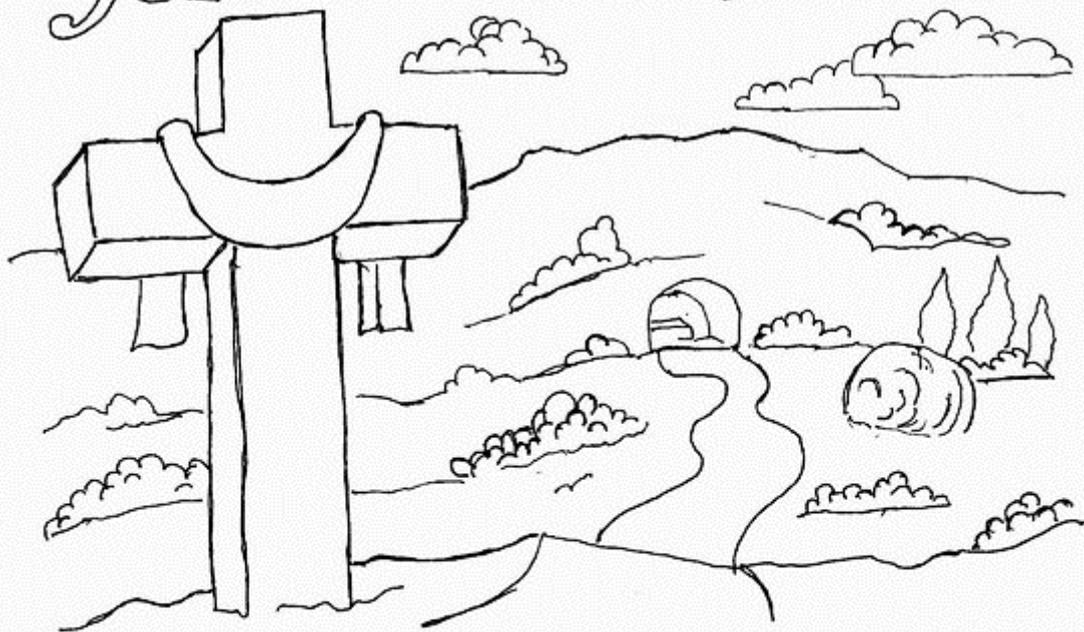
Yarn wrapped Tree

iheartcraftythings.com



Yarn Wrapped
BLOSSOMING
TREE

JESUS SAID
I AM THE
RESURRECTION
AND THE LIFE



THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME
WILL LIVE

John 11:25

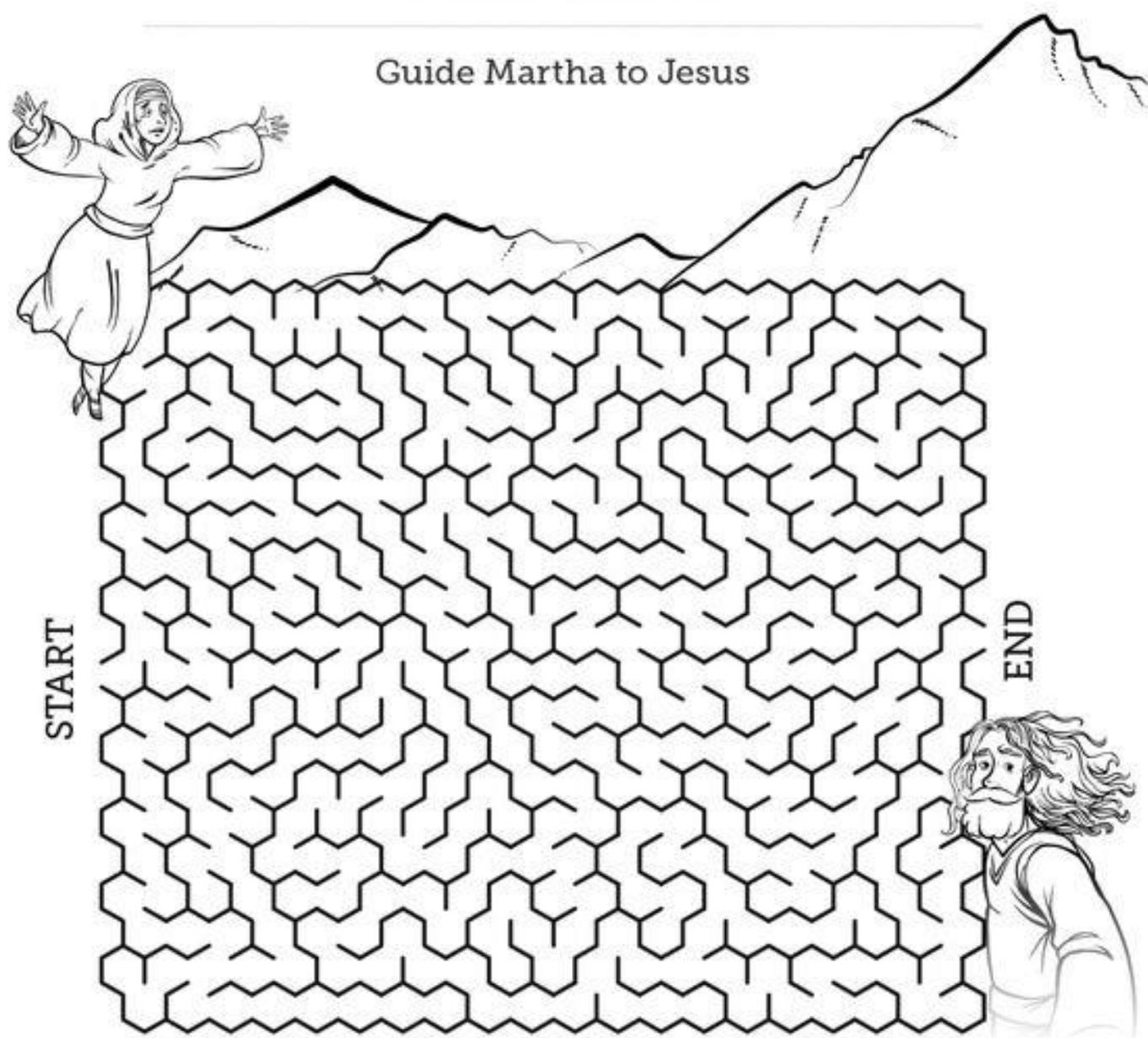
"I AM" THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



"I AM" THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE

Guide Martha to Jesus



Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." John 11:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 11:1-45 (NIV).

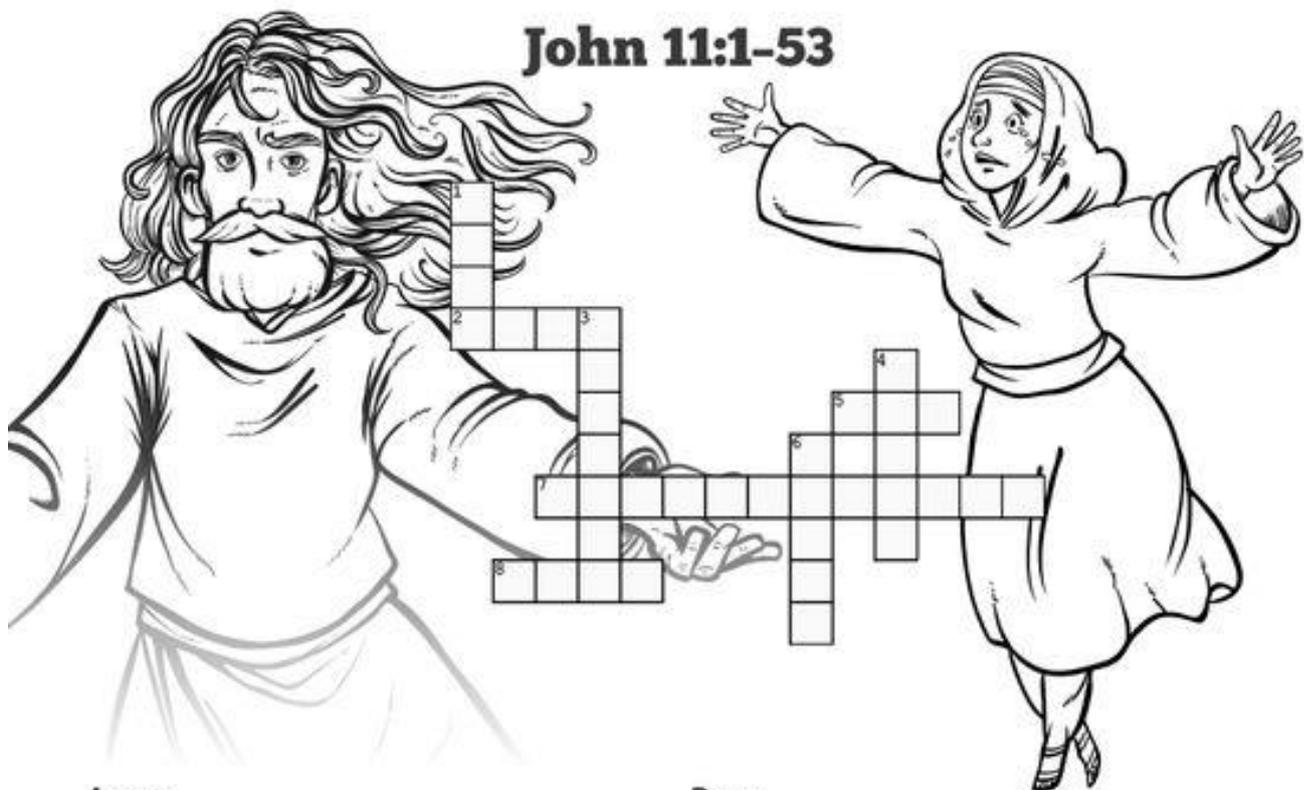


L A Z A R U S E S L E E P M P
 Q E N T R A N C E B D F L Y U
 L J O A S O W D Y L I F E V L
 F N I K T W E I X L G T O M B
 X Y K S C Q E S F O E D Z N R
 P R A Y E D P C F V R E E E D
 B K Q W E S I I A E C A H V X
 G L F K K N N P O A V T C V R
 R L A Z U K G L G T O H G A E
 I W O H F E E E Z R R H H V R
 S F C R X J W S B J T T E S A
 E H W Y Y N Y B N S R I U W A
 L W B P O M A R Y A L S H M K
 G C Q L W H J S M E E R A X G
 B H A E U U Q H B J S I C K V

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEEPING	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP

"I AM" THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE

John 11:1-53



Across

2. After Lazarus was prepared for burial, he was laid in a dark, lonely _____.
5. Martha shows continued faith in Jesus' words, and proclaims, "Yes Lord. I believe you are the Messiah—the Son of _____."
7. Jesus said, "I am the _____ and the life."
8. Jesus did not come right away, and Lazarus _____.

Down

1. The shortest verse in the Bible says, "Jesus _____."
3. Martha was sad that Jesus did not arrive before Lazarus died, but in faith she said, "I know and _____ that whatever you ask of God, God will give it to you."
4. After Jesus asked that the stone in front of the tomb be rolled away, He commanded to the dead man, "Lazarus come _____!"
6. Lazarus got very sick, so Mary and Martha sent a message to _____ asking Him to come right away.

