



Gospel Story:

Jesus and Lazarus

Jesus was a man with many friends. Three of Jesus' best friends were a man named Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. They lived together in a town called Bethany. Jesus liked to visit his friends at their home. Together they would talk about God and pray.

One day a strange thing happened. A messenger ran to Jesus, where he was staying with his disciples. "Jesus," the messenger cried out. "Your friend Lazarus is very sick. Mary and Martha want you to come right away."

But Jesus did not rush to where Lazarus lay sick. Jesus waited for two days before he made the trip. When he finally arrived, he was met by Martha. She was angry and crying as she said, "You're too late. Lazarus died and we've already buried him in a tomb."

"Don't be afraid," said Jesus. "Remember how we've talked together about God's power? You'll see it this very day."

When Mary heard that Jesus had come, she ran to meet him. She was so sad she couldn't say a word, but fell at his feet and cried. Jesus was heartbroken to see Martha and Mary so sad. He cried with them. Then he asked to see where Lazarus was buried. Mary and Martha took Jesus to Lazarus's tomb, a cave with a stone in front of the opening.

"Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered. They rolled the stone away and Jesus spoke again. "Lazarus—come out!"

Martha and Mary didn't know where to look. At Jesus? at the tomb? What could they possibly see? But then Martha whispered, "Look! Oh, Mary, look!" She pointed to the door of the tomb. There was Lazarus, still wrapped in his burial cloths, but walking out of the tomb—alive!

Mary and Martha were so amazed they couldn't even move until Jesus said gently, "Take away his burial cloths. Let him walk freely, now that he's alive again."

