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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, April 2, 2017

5th Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [John 11:1-45](#) [Summary: *Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead*]

Supplies Needed: No supplies needed.

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning!
- I have a question for you – have you ever been sad?
- What are some things that you have been sad about?
- And in what ways do you show that you are sad? (sad faces, complaints, crying)

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- One reason that we feel sad (that I heard in a number of the things that you just shared) is when we lose something we care about.
- And it is okay to feel that way.
- In today's story, we hear that Jesus was sad, too.
- Jesus was sad because his friend, Lazarus, had died.
- Lazarus was a close friend, the story says, a friend that Jesus loved.
- Jesus joined Lazarus' family to grieve a few days after Lazarus had died.
- *Everyone* was upset.
- And a number of the people even told Jesus, "If only you had been here sooner -- you could've helped."
- Can you believe that? They were blaming Jesus -- telling him that he made a mistake by not getting there sooner.

- After Jesus heard this a few times from a couple of different people, the story tells us that that's when "Jesus wept."
- Jesus was crying.
- But then, after Jesus cried, he prayed.
- Then, after he prayed, with God's help, Jesus brings Lazarus back to life.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Today's story reminds us that sad things happen in life - to *everyone*.
- And when those sad things happen, it's ok to feel sad about them and to cry about them.
- But Jesus in his actions in today's story also reminds us that our sadness is not supposed to be the end of the story; sadness is not where our story stops.
- So when we are sad, let's remember to do like Jesus did.
- When we're sad, let's ask God to join us in our sadness.
- Because when we invite God to join us in our sadness, then God can help us see and know how to share God's love and healing with those around us, just like Jesus did in today's story.
- And that's the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who shows us how...

...who shows us how...

...to invite you into our sadness...

...to invite you into our sadness...

...so that your love, healing, and life...

...so that your love, healing, and life...

...can be known.

...can be known.

Thank you and Amen.