

12

A Resurrection Promise

Key References: John 11:1-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 58, pp. 533-536; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 22-27; Our Beliefs nos. 25, 26, 9



powertext

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Did you hear about the man in New York City who offers to sell the Brooklyn Bridge to a rich tourist? When the tourist can't decide if he wants to buy, the man adds the Titanic to the deal! Of course, it's a hoax. Doubters say the resurrection is a hoax too. Yet Lazarus's resurrection proves the contrary.

Mary kneels at Jesus' feet sobbing. Mourners who have followed her are also weeping. A great sadness settles upon the Master; He begins to weep. He weeps for the sisters who cannot understand what He is about to do. He weeps for all people everywhere, past, present, and future, who grieve. He weeps for the doubting Pharisees who pretend to mourn but who will soon plot to kill both Jesus and the newly resurrected Lazarus. He sees clearly that their rejection of Him ensures their forever death after the judgment. So Jesus weeps.

"See how He loved him!" some of the Jewish leaders murmur, thinking that Jesus is just missing His friend.

Then Jesus gets up and moves toward the tomb. He stands outside the cave in which Lazarus's body has been lying for four days. Earlier this day Jesus has claimed to be "the Resurrection and the Life." Meanwhile He has promised that someone who believes in Him will live, even though they die. He has prepared the people for a miracle.

Scanning the crowd of people who have now all gathered expectantly, we see the sad sisters, Mary and Martha, beside Jesus. Around them stand Jesus' disciples. Sad relatives and proud Pharisees surround them. Confidently Jesus waits to resurrect His friend, but the weeping and wailing have taken center stage. A hush falls over the mourners as the crowd looks toward Jesus.



Jesus gives us
new life today
and for eternity.

Sabbath

Do Do the activity
on page 89.

12

Sunday

READ Read John 11:38 and this week's story, "A Resurrection Promise."

REVIEW Review the power text and think about its meaning.

THINK What difference does it make in your life that Jesus is coming to take you home with Him forever?

WRITE Write your answers in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Ask God to help you believe in His promise of resurrection and eternal life.

Monday

READ Read John 11:39-44.

THINK What did Martha do that could have prevented Jesus from raising Lazarus (verse 39)? What was Martha failing to remember (verse 25)?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His resurrection power.

Tuesday

READ Read John 5:24-27.

THINK Which verse strengthens your faith in Jesus and in the promise of resurrection and eternal life?

ASK Ask an adult to explain to you verse 24.

DO Soak a dry bean seed in water overnight and be prepared to examine it tomorrow.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to take your heart and water it with faith and love.

"Take away the stone," He says.

Martha's mouth drops open; her eyes widen in horror. "But, Lord," she gasps, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." The thought of putting the decomposing body on view humiliates Martha. For a moment her pride stands in the way of Jesus and the blessing she most desires.

"Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" Jesus gently reminds her.

So they take away the stone. And Jesus lifts His face toward God. "Father," He says, "I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that You sent Me."

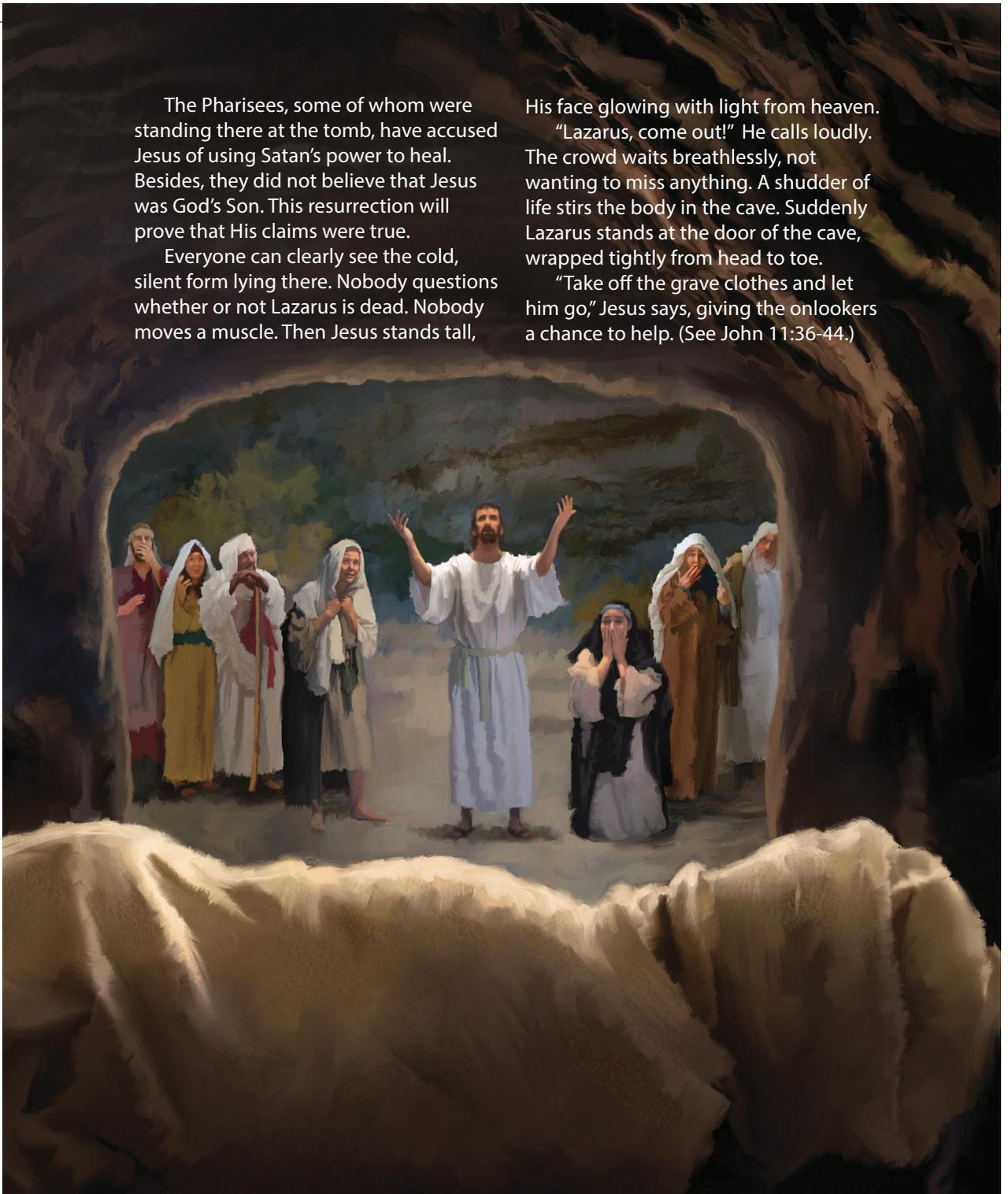
The Pharisees, some of whom were standing there at the tomb, have accused Jesus of using Satan's power to heal. Besides, they did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. This resurrection will prove that His claims were true.

Everyone can clearly see the cold, silent form lying there. Nobody questions whether or not Lazarus is dead. Nobody moves a muscle. Then Jesus stands tall,

His face glowing with light from heaven.

"Lazarus, come out!" He calls loudly. The crowd waits breathlessly, not wanting to miss anything. A shudder of life stirs the body in the cave. Suddenly Lazarus stands at the door of the cave, wrapped tightly from head to toe.

"Take off the grave clothes and let him go," Jesus says, giving the onlookers a chance to help. (See John 11:36-44.)



12

Wednesday

READ Read John 5:28, 29.

THINK What two groups of people does John say will be resurrected? What is the difference between them?

OBSERVE Check the bean you soaked. Remove the skin and divide the bean. What sign of future life do you see?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the assurance of eternal life.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

THINK When do the saints who died go to heaven?

SHARE Share with someone the resurrection promise.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to keep you faithful until He comes.

Friday

READ Read Revelation 21:4.

PLAN Plan a special sunset worship.

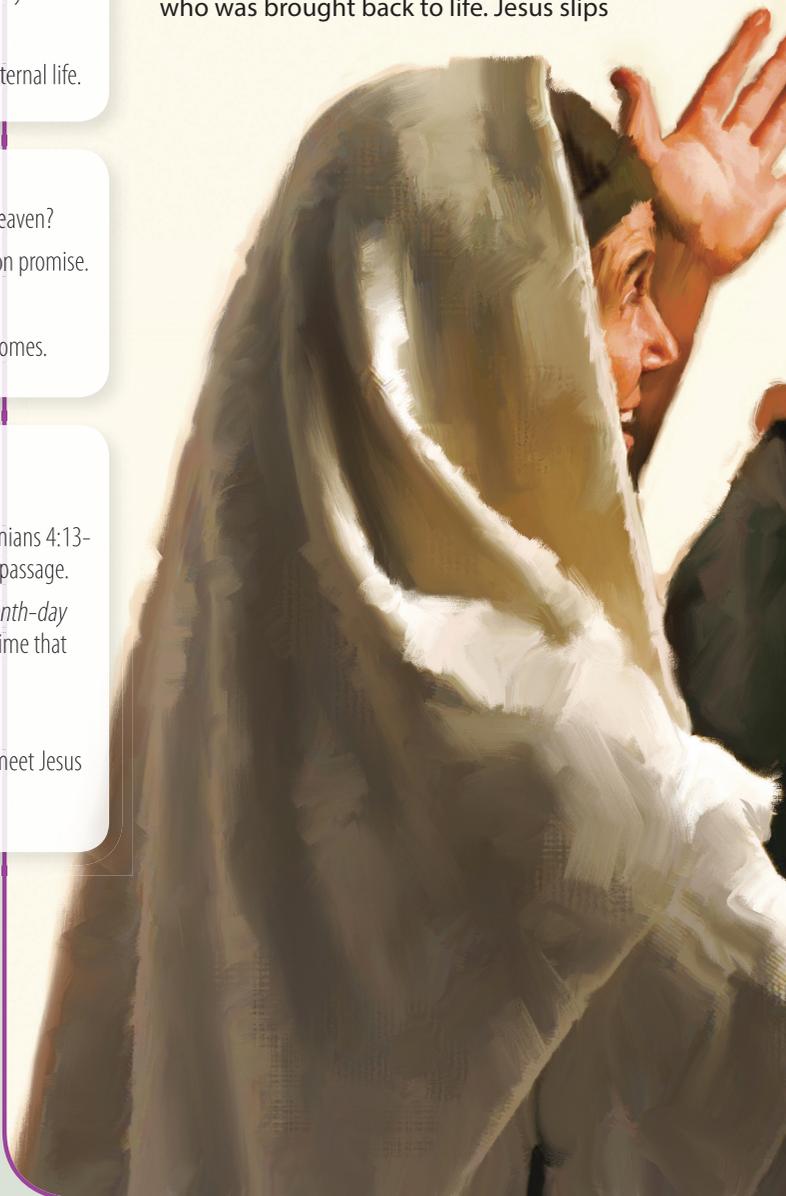
DO While a family member reads 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, use puppets to illustrate the words of this passage.

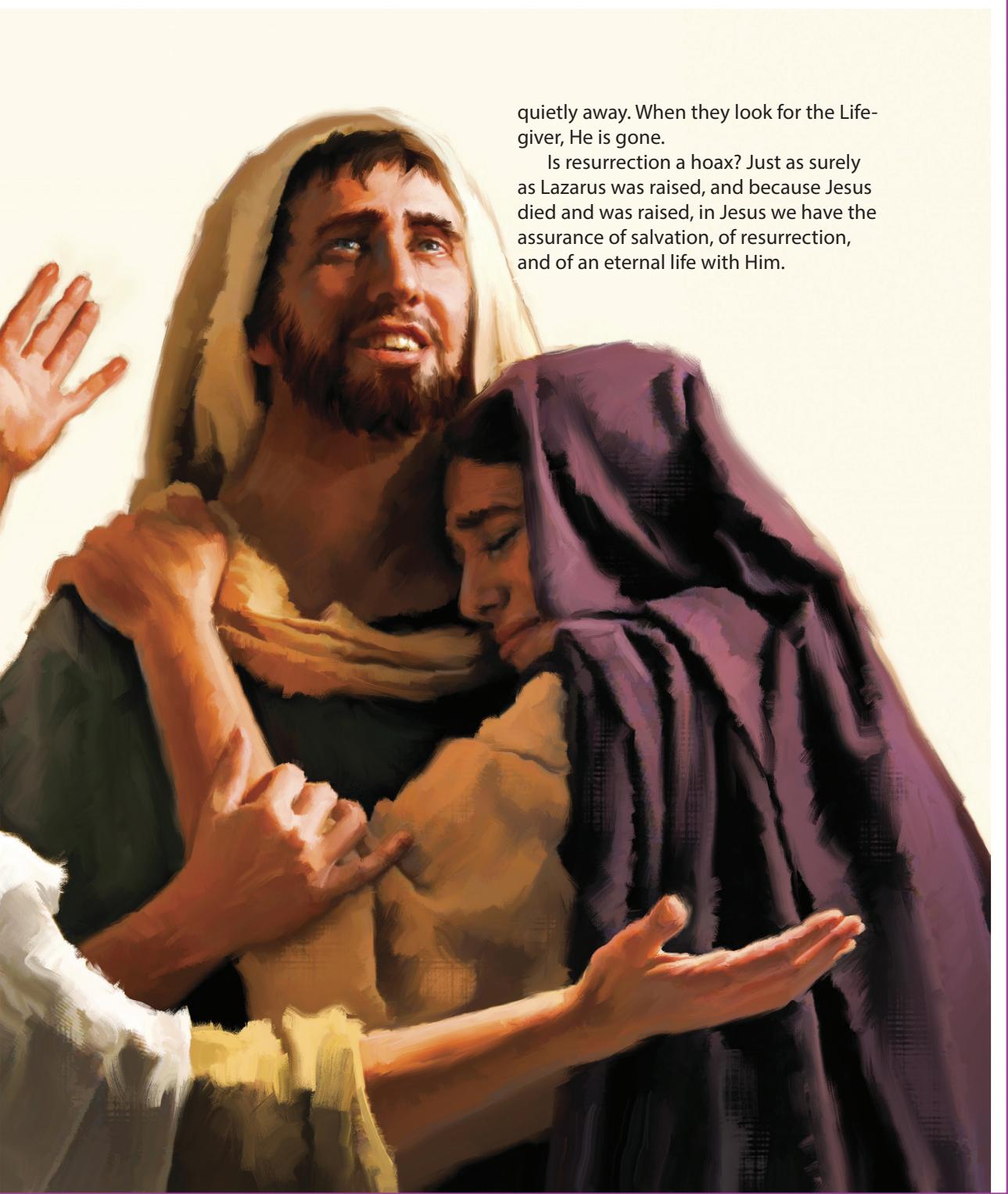
SING Sing "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 213). Think about the time that the graves will open at Jesus' command.

SAV Review the power text from memory.

PRAY Pray that your family will be ready to meet Jesus when He returns to take us home.

As the bandages come away, Lazarus, strong and healthy, gazes into the eyes of his Lord and friend and smiles. Suddenly the crowd erupts in celebration. The sisters call their thanks to Jesus and turn to welcome Lazarus, their dear brother who was brought back to life. Jesus slips





quietly away. When they look for the Life-giver, He is gone.

Is resurrection a hoax? Just as surely as Lazarus was raised, and because Jesus died and was raised, in Jesus we have the assurance of salvation, of resurrection, and of an eternal life with Him.

NO MORE TEARS

Instructions: Can you “translate” this Bible verse from the “pig Latin”?

“Ehay illway ipeway everyyay eartay
omfray eirthay eyesyay. Erethay illway
ebay onay oremay eathday oryay
ourningmay oryay yingcray oryay
ainpay, orfay ethay oldyay orderyay
ofyay ingsthay ashay assedpay awayyay.”

Rules for pig Latin

The letters before the first vowel are moved to the end of the word and “ay” is added. If the word starts with a vowel, then “yay” is added to the word.

