

## The Gospel of John

### John 11

**Memory Verse:** *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die”* (John 11:25-26 ESV).

#### Background Helps:

John 11 includes the climactic sign of the gospel of John (other than Jesus’ own resurrection): the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This miracle is one of the signs John refers to in his purpose statement in John 20:30-31. Like the other signs, this miracle points to a significant truth about our Lord which is summarized in the memory verses for this lesson: according to John 11:25-26, Jesus has power over death.

This event takes place shortly before the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday for his last Passover visit to the city. See the reference to this Passover in John 11:55-56 and 12:1. See the references also in the very next chapter to the raising of Lazarus in 12:1, 9-11, 17-18. In fact, John links the size the crowd on Palm Sunday to the miracle of Lazarus’ resurrection. This miracle took place in Bethany only about two miles from Jerusalem (John 11:18).

#### Lesson Helps:

Possible lesson aim: My students will learn about Jesus’ raising of Lazarus from the dead, so that they will believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (compare John 11:27 and 20:31), who has power over death. Once again, this aim is evangelistic in emphasis, although the same aim can be used to confirm the faith of those who are already Christians.

The raising of Lazarus is one of the great dramatic stories of Scripture. Remember the keys to telling a good story:

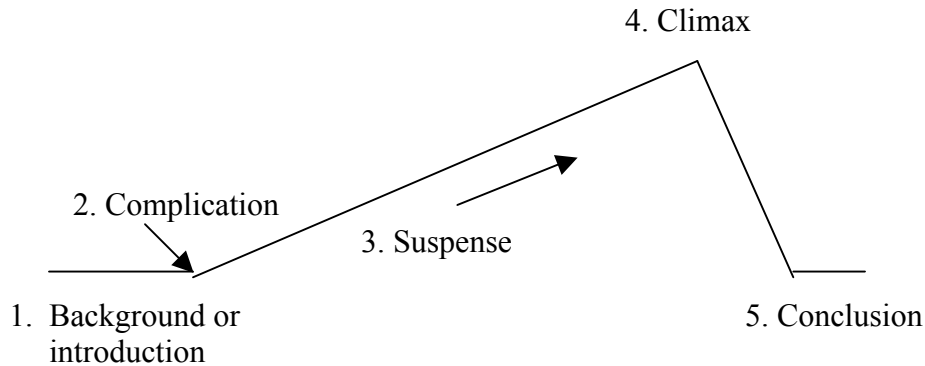
#### Storytelling<sup>1</sup>

- Use picturesque, vivid, descriptive, dramatic language.
- Use dialogue between the characters.
- Leave out extraneous details (but sometimes details that seem extraneous at the beginning of a story turn out to be important later on). Be as concise as possible.
- Make sure the story is clearly and logically presented in a manner appropriate to the age level of your audience.
- Arouse interest at the beginning of the story.
- Use questions from time to time to hold the attention of your audience.
- Use visual aids, if appropriate.

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<sup>1</sup> Jay Adams, *Pulpit Speech* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1971), 21-40.

- Make sure your story has a point and conveys that point to the audience.
- *Above all, do not merely report the story, but relive the story by dramatic use of both voice and body.* (To achieve this effect, the teacher must know the story thoroughly and enter into the plot through the use of imagination.)
- Use the basic narrative plan as portrayed in the following diagram:



There are five elements to the basic narrative plan:

- (1) The background or introductory material (see John 11:1-2)
- (2) The introduction of some complication or problem (11:3)
- (3) Suspense which builds through new complications, failures to solve the original problem, or new insights into the problem (11:4-42)
- (4) A climax or solution to the problem or problems (11:43-44)
- (5) If necessary, a brief conclusion (11:45-53)

In your telling of the story, the long section of plot development (vv. 4-42) needs to be narrated in such a way as to actually build the suspense to the point of climax, using the techniques mentioned above.

You can either weave applications in and out during the telling of the story or make one pointed application at the end based on your lesson aim.

**Home Assignment:**

📖 Read: John 12

📖 Memorize: John 12:26 ESV