



Senior Lesson

(Third Class–Sixth Class) (P5–P7)



Teacher's Notes

The Moment of November focuses on how we as followers of Jesus are communities of hope. We live in the hope of the Resurrection, that those that have gone before us will be brought into the new and eternal life with God that Jesus promises.

Jesus tells us that all who believe in him will return home to him in heaven when they die. Those we love who have died are now in heaven with Jesus and we can pray for them and to them.

Throughout the month of November and on the Feast of All Souls (2 November), we remember family and friends who have returned home to heaven. We also remember those who have no one to pray for them. Sometimes it can be difficult to live with this hope, especially when someone we love passes away. As Christians, we can see the truth of the promise in the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. As well as examining this miracle, this lesson will focus on how we can remember loved ones who have died, especially in the month of November.

In many ways our lives are like the seasons of the beautiful world God created for us. We are young and growing in the spring of our lives, blossoming in the summer and growing older and maturing in the autumn. The Bible tells us, 'For everything, there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven' (Eccl 3:1).

Note: Teachers should use their own discretion when covering this material as the content may be difficult for some children, especially if they have been recently bereaved.

Consider

Begin the class with a brief discussion around what we as Christians believe happens after we die or someone we love dies. Where do we go? What happens at a funeral?

Note: 'We believe that: when we die, God calls us to heaven' (CCC, 1011); 'God's plan is that when we die we will live on with God, Jesus, Mary, the angels and saints in heaven' (CCC, 1024).



Whether it is a member of our family, a friend or even a pet, it can be very difficult when someone we love dies. It is completely normal to feel sad, angry, lonely or confused after we lose someone.



Jesus promises that all who believe in him will return home to him in heaven when they die. Those we love who have died are now in heaven with Jesus and we can pray for them and to them.

Explore

We can learn a lot about Jesus' promise from the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, which is told in the Gospel of John.

Jesus had three very close friends who lived in Bethany. They were Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. One day, while Jesus was on the other side of the Jordan, Mary and Martha sent him an urgent message: 'Lazarus is very sick. Please come quickly!' But Jesus did not go right away. He waited for two more days and then said to his disciples: 'Let's go to Bethany. Lazarus is sleeping, and I am going to wake him up.' The apostles said: 'If Lazarus is asleep, that will help him to get well.' So Jesus told them clearly: 'Lazarus has died.'



When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had already been buried for four days. Crowds of people had come to comfort Martha and Mary. When Martha heard that Jesus had come, she rushed to meet him. She said: 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' Jesus told her: 'Your brother will live again. Do you believe this, Martha?' She said: 'I believe that he will rise in the resurrection.' Jesus said to her: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'



Then Martha went to Mary and told her: 'Jesus is here.' Mary ran to Jesus, and the crowd followed. She fell down at his feet, and she could not stop crying. She said: 'Lord, if you had been here, our brother would still be alive!' Jesus saw how much she was suffering, and he also began to cry. When the crowd saw his tears, they said: 'See how Jesus loved Lazarus.' But some wondered: 'Why didn't he save his friend?' What would Jesus do next?

Jesus went to the tomb, where a large stone covered the entrance. He commanded: 'Roll the stone away.' Martha said: 'But it has been four days! His body will smell.' Still, they rolled the stone away, and Jesus prayed: 'Father, thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me, but I speak aloud so that these people may know that you sent me.' Then he called out in a loud voice: 'Lazarus, come out!' Something amazing happened: Lazarus came out of the tomb, still wrapped in linen cloths. Jesus said: 'Free him and let him go.'

YouTube clip of the story of the raising of Lazarus:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSxXCmM>

Activity

Write an account of the miracle as if you were present or report the miracle for the *Galilee Gazette* on the Senior Activity Page.

Additional Activity

Take some time to think/talk about people you love who have died. This could be a family member, a friend or even a pet. The children can design a picture or write the name of someone they want to remember. Place the sheets in a box at the sacred space in the classroom.

If there is an opportunity, bring the class to Mass during a school day in November. Ask the priest if the class can place the box of names at the foot of the altar during the Mass.



