

Session 23

The widow's son *Jesus' miracles change lives!*

This session touches on how Jesus has power and how his power to do miracles can change people's lives.

Scripture: Luke 7:11–17

Supplies:

Depending on which activities you decide on, you may need all or only some of the following:

- ◆ 3 paper or plastic glasses/cups which are completely opaque
- ◆ Cotton wool
- ◆ Water in a see-through jug or something similar
- ◆ 4 nice pieces of paper or cardboard with different words or phrases written or printed on each respective side:
 - ◆ 1. Crying / Happy
 - ◆ 2. Dead / Alive
 - ◆ 3. At a funeral / Talking about Jesus
 - ◆ 4. Just one word on this one: Action
- ◆ 2 paper plates per child
- ◆ 1 popsicle stick or any type of stick per child
- ◆ 1 box, tin, or envelope per child, or 1 large one for the entire group
- ◆ Glue, crayons, pencils, and other things with which to colour, draw, and decorate



WELCOME

Play one or all of these games: *(Make sure that children who cannot take part in these games for whatever reason are still included in the game by e.g. being referees or walking along.)*

Carrying race: Let the children divide themselves into groups of 2. Let them take turns to carry each other from one side of the room or space to the other. Let them start with one person on the back of the other. As soon as they get to the other side they must swap as quickly as possible and run back. The first team back wins. *(This can be played as often as you think necessary)*

Ambulance: Divide the children into larger, equal groups. Let one child from each group stand on the other side of the space or room and the rest of their team on the other side. When ready, make siren noises and shout: "Whee-whaa! Your friend is injured! Go and get her/him!" The rest of the team must then run over, pick up their friend and carry them back. *(This could also be played where the groups should run around a field or a hall.)*

If the group is older, you could perhaps do this one:

"Miracles": Get 3 paper or plastic glasses/cups which are completely opaque. Put some cotton wool in the bottom of one of them. Pour some water out of a clear jug into one of the cups without any cotton wool. Ask the children if they think it is real water or not and then drink the water to prove it is indeed real. Pour again a little water into a cup without cotton wool and this time shuffle the cups around a little bit. Ask them if they can find the cup with water in it. *(They should be able to find it easily.)* Now drink the water. Pour a little water into the cup with the cotton wool at the bottom. Shuffle the glasses/cups a bit more this time, but still in a way that the most observant children will be able to find the correct cup. When they have found it, pick it up and turn it over in a way that the cotton wool will not fall out. Turn over the other two cups/glasses and show that there is no water in them either! What a miracle!

(It helps to use a thumb and a finger to pick up the glasses/cups, in a way that your finger is deep enough to keep the cotton wool in place. Pick up all the cups in this way, so that no-one can see that you are holding one glass in a different manner.)

After you have done the welcome activities, ask the children if they know any stories about Jesus doing miracles, or any other miracle stories. Talk about the stories. Then ask the children about the previous sessions and if they can remember any of the previous sessions' miracles.



WORSHIP

Do the **settle down ritual** as in session 21 and sing the **theme song** you chose for this term.



WORD

Ask 4 children to help you to tell the story. *(Remember not to ask the same eager children, but also ask the children who are perhaps just too shy to speak up.)* Let one child be **Jesus**, the next one the **mother/widow**, the next one the **son** and the last one the **townspeople**. *(Alternatively ask a group of children to be the townspeople.)*

Then tell the story below and let the children help as indicated. Ask the helpers to stand in front where everyone can see them clearly and give each one the cardboard/paper with the words on the front and back.

Let **Jesus** hold the word "Action". He must then go and stand next to each character as indicated.

The **mother/widow** must hold the word "Crying" on one side and "Happy" on the other. If you don't have materials, she can just act sad, and later, happy.

The **son** must hold "Dead" with "Alive" on the back, or he can just act like that if you don't have the materials.

The **townspeople** have the sign "At a funeral" with "Telling others about Jesus" on the back, or just act it out if you don't have the materials.

Jesus was going from town to town while preaching and performing miracles! One day he came to a town called Nain. When he was near the town's entrance, he saw a large group of people leaving the town on their way to bury a young man who had died. Everyone was very sad and cried a whole lot.

When Jesus saw this, he went closer and spoke to the mother of the young man. *(Jesus must stand next to the mother)* She was a widow (her husband had also died) and she was very sad because it was her only son that had died. Jesus told her: "Don't cry."

Then Jesus went up to the young man, touched him *(Jesus can then go and stand next to the son)* and told him: "Young man, I say to you, get up!" This son then sat up and began to talk! *(Son turns paper around and becomes alive)* He had risen from the dead! Jesus then took him to his mother, who was very happy! *(Jesus stands next to the mother who turns her paper around and becomes very happy.)*

All the people in this town saw how Jesus had raised this young man from the dead *(Jesus stands next to the townspeople who turn their paper around to tell everyone about Jesus)* and they were very excited! They told each other: "A great prophet has appeared among us" and "God has come to help his people." Everyone in the whole region began to talk about what Jesus had done!

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how the mother felt about her son who had died.
2. I wonder how you would have felt if you were Jesus and saw the mother crying over her son.
3. I wonder how the son felt when he was alive again.
4. I wonder how you would have felt if you lived in the town too and saw the miracle.



WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

- ✍ Before-and-after: Give each child a stick and two paper plates. Let them write and draw a “Before” and “After” side, each on a paper plate. On the one, let them write how everyone in the town looked and felt before the miracle, and on the other one, how they looked and felt afterwards. Glue the paper plates to the stick back-to-back, so that one side is **before** and one side is **after**. Let them take the plates home and describe the story to someone.
- ✍ Jesus heals! Let each child make and decorate a box, tin or envelope. They can put written prayers on small pieces of paper inside. On the box they must write “Jesus heals!” They can then take them home and write prayers for people who need healing on pieces of paper and after praying what they have written, place them in the box. (You can also make one box for your entire group and keep it at your venue, adding prayers as needed.)
- ✍ Crossword

Benediction:

Close with the blessing as in session 21.



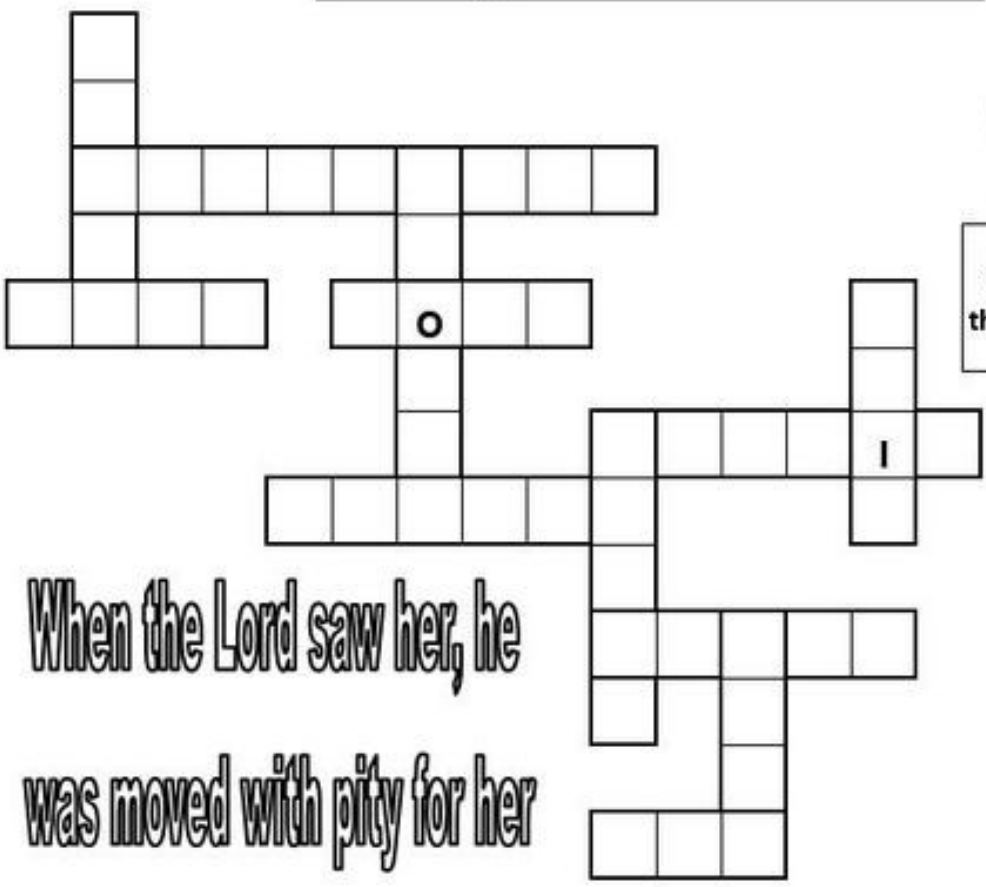
Raising of the Widow's Son



Make all the words fit into this crosswords



- Nain
- Disciples
- Gate
- Mother
- Died
- Widow
- Lord
- Coffin
- God
- Prophet
- Judea
- Crowd



When the Lord saw her, he
was moved with pity for her

and said to her, "Do not weep!" Luke 7:13

