

Children's Sermon for March 29 (based on John 11)

Items needed: black garbage bag, teddy bear, volunteer, a red ribbon.

Start by tying the ribbon around the teddy bear's neck, explaining that this ribbon stands for what is called a person's soul. Ask volunteer to hold bag open. Hold teddy bear over open bag. What will happen if I let go of teddy bear? It will fall into the bag. (Do so.) Now that the teddy is in the bag, can it get out by itself? No. But if I reach into the bag (do so,) I can pull it out (do so.) There! Good as new! In today's Bible reading, a person calls Lazarus dies, which is kind of like this teddy dropping into this black bag (drop teddy in again.) But Jesus comes and pulls Lazarus back out of death (reach into bag and bring out teddy.) Jesus does this to show He is stronger than death. Now, when people die, (drop teddy into bag again,) Jesus does not usually bring them back, like He did with Lazarus. Instead, Jesus reaches into death, and takes the person's soul in His hand (pull out ribbon,) and holds the person's soul, forever in His love.

By Rev. Dave Quinn