

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 125. Lazarus, come out!

**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** John 11:40-43

Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, 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.' When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!'



**LOOKING FURTHER:** 1 Peter 5:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; 2 Corinthians 1:10-11

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

This story begins in John 11:1. It tells us how Jesus heard about the illness and death of his close friend Lazarus. Lazarus and his sisters Mary and Martha were followers with the disciples and Jesus loved them very much. When Lazarus became ill, they expected that Jesus would rush to his side and heal him as He had healed others. But that did not happen. Jesus arrived when his friend was already dead. Lazarus had all the ceremonies performed and was laid to rest in a tomb. It was far too late. They thought that nothing could bring him back.

Sometimes in life we can make mistakes and damage our relationship with God. Sometimes people make that same judgement about us – we have blown it! We cannot come back from where we are. There seems to be no hope for us and we get stuck in a dark place – like Lazarus in his tomb.

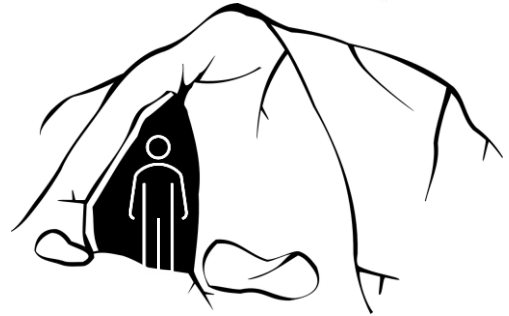
This passage teaches us something incredible. No one is ever beyond Jesus' help! Jesus turned to God and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me.' Jesus himself prayed a heartfelt prayer to God in complete faith and certainty that He would hear. That He would not only hear, but also answer. And God did answer! As Jesus called with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' he immediately responded and walked right out of the tomb.

When Jesus sees us stuck in sin, suffering from our own wrong choices, He calls to God with that same loud voice, and He rescues us. All we have to do is respond by walking right out of where we are and straight into the loving embrace of Jesus.

### Reflections:

- God answers our prayers – sometimes sooner, sometimes later, sometimes differently from what we expect. Sometimes we might not ever understand it. However, His answer is always perfect and often surprises us. Think of a time when you or someone you know had their prayers answered. It is really encouraging.
- Think of something that you need help with right now. You can pray about it yourself, or you can ask the Chaplain to pray with you. God will always hear. People tell us often how *Prayer Line* requests have been answered. Let's take time to say thank you for that this week.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

