

ROOTS YOUNG PEOPLE

Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for all templates, links and images. Find Bible notes and more prayers on p.22. Use the BIBLE section below first, then choose activities from the other sections. Extra ideas can be found in *Explore & respond* opposite.

BIBLE John 11.1-45

Warm up 5 mins E

In teams, dress up one person as Lazarus in his 'grave cloths' by wrapping them in toilet roll. Ask a leader to judge the best, and that person will play the part of Lazarus in the dramatised reading.

Dramatic reading 10 mins W E

Ask the young people to take on different characters and act out the story as it is read. Remind them to think about how those characters might have felt and display some of their emotions. Ask for volunteers to play a messenger, Jesus, Thomas, disciples, Mary, Martha, mourners. Ask the young person wrapped up from the Warm up activity to play Lazarus and bust out of the toilet roll wrappings at the right moment.

Questions to discuss

- How might Martha and Mary have been feeling towards Jesus when he finally arrived?
- Why didn't Jesus rush to Bethany?
- When have you felt let down by Jesus or doubted his presence with you?

CONNECT

Where was Jesus? 15 mins W E S A

Ask people to get into small groups and think of something wrong in the world, e.g. a natural disaster or current situation in the news. Give each group a piece of plain A3 paper and a pen, and encourage them to draw something to represent the situation. Discuss: where might Jesus have been at this moment? Encourage everyone to add words and pictures to illustrate their thoughts.

Being Jesus' presence 10 mins E S A

Lay out some magazines, newspapers and collage materials. Ask people to work in groups to create a collage of people and situations who might feel let down and need to know Jesus' presence. As they cut and stick, ask everyone to think about how they could be Jesus' presence in the world in some of these situations, or situations closer to home.

WEB PostScript: Linking this week's reading to the news

Listen

WEB See *Young People* page or *Hymns, songs & music* for links to these tracks.
 War in the time of peace, Wolves at the gate on *Types & shadows*
 Scars, I am they on *Trial & triumph*
 Move (keep walkin'), TobyMac on *This is not a test*

EXPLORE

Holding on 10 mins E

Set up a tug of war (outside if possible) with a long piece of rope. Divide the group into two equal teams and play a few rounds. After a while, alter the teams to put most people on one side. Who wins? Ask the smaller team, when it felt there was no point in pulling, what did they do? Was it worth holding onto the rope?

Rock reminders 10 mins E S

Allow each young person to choose a stone as a physical reminder that God is our rock, our ever-present help in times of trouble. Invite everyone to paint their rock and keep it as a reminder that God is there with us, present when things go wrong. They could even keep it in their pocket or school bag to touch when they feel let down, and need to know God is there with them.



Picture pointers **WEB**

Questions for reflection

- ▶ Who/what do you call upon when things go wrong?
- ▶ When things go wrong, how is Jesus present for you?
- ▶ ...and when things are going well?

PRAY

Poem prayer 5 mins W E S

Read RS Thomas' poem (on **WEB**) and ask the group for thoughts on what the poet is saying. Read the poem again as a prayer, and allow space for the young people to reflect and be still.

Rock prayers 5 mins E S

Play some meditative worship music (see *Listen*). Invite the young people to hold onto their stone from *Rock reminders*, and pray that God might show them how to be his presence for others.

Live your faith

Keep the rock from *Rock reminders* (or use a similar solid object) in your pocket or school bag this week, to remind you of God's constant presence with us. **E S**