

What makes a flower alive? How about a person? What makes a person alive? Can you make the dead flower alive again? How surprised all the people were, when Jesus made a dead man alive again. How did Jesus make Lazarus come alive again? He prayed to God. He was very sure that God was listening, and that God would help him. Jesus wants us all to know that God is listening when we pray, and that God will look after us.

Story: A squirrel to the rescue!

There used to be an old farmhouse, up in the forest, a long way from the town. A man lived there, all by himself: he was a forester, and he looked after the woodland. His name was Henry. Henry liked the woods. But he was very lonely. Much as he loved his work, he had no one to talk to. He wished something would happen. One day, Henry woke up and felt sure something special was going to happen. He put on his boots and his coat, and he went for a walk in the woods. Everything looked the same, but then he noticed a little squirrel. It was a baby squirrel, too small to look after itself, and it had fallen out of its nest and broken its leg. He took it home, and he made a little bed for it in a shoe box, and tucked it up under the end of a great big red woolly scarf. Henry brought food for the baby squirrel: milk, and nuts and

What makes you feel happy and excited?

Juniors

What makes a flower, or a person, alive? Can you make this dead flower come alive again? But remember nothing is impossible for Jesus. He could even make a dead man come alive again.

What does Jesus want us to understand, from this story about raising Lazarus from the dead?

First, Jesus wants us to see that he is special, that he is sent from God. He is not just an ordinary person like you or me. He has a special connection to God. Secondly, Jesus wants us to understand that his special connection to God comes from trusting God. He is very, very sure that his prayers will be answered, and that there is nothing God can't do, if it is right. Jesus wants us to learn to trust God that way, too.

Lazarus was like the dead flower, and God made him alive again. People who don't know Jesus are a bit like the dried flower: they are still beautiful, but there is something missing. They are not so lovely as the living flower. Without God's love there is something missing. Trusting God fills up that gap and makes us as lovely as the whole flower. It makes us properly alive.

Story: It's great to be alive!

Have you ever noticed how you feel, if you expect something bad to happen, and then it doesn't happen? Maybe you think your parents are going to be very cross about something, but then they aren't cross at all. Or maybe you knocked something over, and you thought it would break, but it landed safely?

Just when you think something bad will happen, you feel all scared and upset. But when it's OK, you feel great. You feel much better than usual. Everything seems nicer and happier than usual. Have you noticed that? You feel more alive, more special, because something bad has not happened.

There was a man called Anthony who liked to go climbing. Anthony had an accident on a mountain. He fell off a high place and got stuck half-way down. He couldn't move, and he thought he would die, but he was rescued.

The next day, all the world looked wonderful! The mountains seemed more beautiful than ever, the people seemed kinder, and even the water tasted better. Anthony realised that he felt much more alive than usual, and that it was a wonderful feeling. He thanked God that he was alive. He wished he could feel that way every day. But the feeling wore off, and Anthony felt ordinary again. Anthony thought and thought how to get that wonderful feeling back. He read books and he asked other people, but no one had the answer. Then he realised that he had had the answer all the time. He was alive every day, but until he nearly fell off the mountain he just hadn't noticed how good that was. Now, Anthony thanks God every day for just being alive, and the world is always a beautiful place for him.