



## A wake or awake?

### Luke 7 v 11-17 & 8 v 40-42, 49-56 – Leader's version

**Check in** – ask everyone, including leaders, how they are and how they're feeling about studying the Bible today.

### What does the passage say and mean?

30 minutes

Read Luke 7 v 11-17

1. What situation does this woman find herself in, and what might the consequences be? (v11-12)

*She's widowed and her only son is dead. There is no man left to care for her, or to bring food into the house. She's lost everything. By the end of the day she could be sleeping rough. However, there's a large local crowd with her, so we would hope that someone would take her in, at least initially.*

2. How does Jesus respond in v13, and do you think it's reasonable to tell this stranger not to cry when she's in crisis?

*'...his heart went out to her' and He told her not to cry.*

*Jesus feels her pain: the original Greek word means He felt it in His gut – Jesus was gutted for her. Brainstorm what He is actually feeling – compassion, empathy, anger at what death does to relationships, insight into the bigger situation that she faces, etc.*

*With the benefit of hindsight, we might say it is reasonable for Jesus to tell her not to cry, but at the time it probably sounded rather hollow to the mourners. We don't know that the widow knows anything about Jesus – this is the only time Nain is mentioned in the gospels so Jesus may be a stranger to her.*

3. What does Jesus do for her, and why do you think He does it?

*He raises her son from the dead. No-one asks Him to do this, because the situation is hopeless. Jesus must have seen countless funeral processions as he travelled around, but on this occasion He intervenes and brings the man back to life. Jesus acts to help the woman, but it's more than that. When Jesus performs a miracle, it is done to bring glory to God's name and to lead the witnesses to believe (John 20 v 30-31).*

4. What do the people make of Jesus when they see His power over death (v16)

*They call Him a great prophet, and recognise that, in Jesus, God's promised salvation has come. They spread the news 'throughout Judea and the surrounding country.'*

Read Luke 8 v 40-56.

5. What problem does Jairus bring to Jesus?

*His only daughter is dying. This is an emergency, he needs Jesus to come NOW.*

6. Someone else comes for help too, and Jesus gets distracted, even though He's on a blue-light trip to Jairus' house. What happens to Jairus' daughter and what does Jesus say? (v49-50) How do you think Jairus feels?

*She dies and Jesus tells her father not to be afraid, 'just believe and she will be healed', v50.*

*Jairus could have been angry with Jesus for not coming straight away, he could have felt betrayed by Jesus for letting him down, he could have been so upset that he couldn't even process how he felt about Jesus and he just wanted to get home, etc.*

*We don't know what he thinks Jesus is going to do, but in the middle of this tragedy he believes Jesus enough to bring him to his daughter.*

7. What does Jesus say to the grieving crowd and how did they respond? (v51-53)

*Remember, we know how the story ends and they didn't. They would have thought Jesus was deluded, over-optimistic, harming the parents by making such a statement, doubting their diagnosis – anything but correct. They 'laughed at him' – mocked Him.*

8. What happens in v54-56? How would you have felt if you'd been there?

*Jesus raises her from the dead. Stunned, sceptical, scared, amazed?*

*Think about how you would have felt if you were the girl, her parent, one of the disciples, in the crowd, etc.*

*NB we know she's dead because*

- *they've informed the parents that she is (you don't do that unless you're sure it's true)*
- *they've started the wake*
- *they laugh at Jesus because they know she's dead, v53*
- *'her spirit returned' – this means her soul had left her body*

9. We've seen that Jesus has power over death. He raised these two people and in John's gospel He raised Lazarus too. What are the implications of this for you?

*It means that Jesus really is God. If this is true, can you afford to ignore Him?*

*It means that Jesus has power over death, which means He has power over your death. How does that make you feel about your own death? Etc.*

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Jairus came to Jesus for help but things got worse before Jesus intervened. Why do you think Jesus allowed this to happen? What lessons can we learn from this about how God operates in our lives?

*Jesus didn't answer Jairus' prayer (his request for help when his daughter was dying) when or how Jairus wanted, but in the end something even bigger than the original prayer was answered. Jesus knew He would bring glory to God's Name by not responding with an immediate 'yes'.*

*Do we trust God enough to be able to live like this ourselves? Rom 8 v 28*

**Check out** – ask everyone, including leaders, how they found the study and if they are safe to go back to the cell.



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