

**Discuss:** “What are other examples of ways we serve people by visiting them in their homes?” (Let the adults or children give examples.)

**Draw** a picture of a table with food on it, for the children to copy.



- Let the older children help the younger ones.
- Let them show the pictures to the adults at the worship time or to parents at home.
- Let them explain that the table with food illustrates how the spirit of Jesus comes into our homes to give us new life. We visit others in their homes to tell them about Him.
- Let them explain about Jesus at the door of our hearts, in the memory verse below.

**Memorize** Revelation 3:20.

**Poem.** Let three children each recite one of the verses from Psalm 145:15, 16 and 18.

**Prayer:** “Lord, you do wonderful things for people who believe in you. You live with us and give us new life. When we die, you will raise us from death to live with you forever where you are. Help us to show our gratitude by visiting others to serve them.”

## Jesus Is Our True Friend

### Teach Children about Visiting in Homes

Choose any of these learning activities.

Older child or teacher: **Read or tell the story** of Jesus and His friend Lazarus (**John 11:1-44**). It tells how Jesus visited in people’s homes. He loved his friends and gave them new life.

**Draw.** Let the children copy or colour this picture.



After relating the story, **ask questions.** Answers, if needed, appear after each question.

1. Why did Jesus wait for two days before going to see his sick friend? *[See verse 4]*
2. Why did Jesus say that Lazarus had fallen asleep when he had died? *[Because Lazarus was not going to stay dead. See verse 4]*
3. What did Jesus do when he saw the tomb? *[See verse 35]*
4. What happens to believers in Jesus when they die? *[See verse 25]*
5. What was Lazarus wearing when he left the tomb? *[See verse 44]*

**Dramatize parts of the story.** Arrange with the leader of the congregational worship to have the children present this brief drama.

- Use your time with the children to prepare it.

- You do not have to use all the parts of the story.
- Let the older children help the younger ones.

**Let older children** or adults act out these roles:

**Narrator.** Summarize the story and help the children remember what to say and do.

**Jesus**

**Mary**

**Martha.** Have pieces of cloth to wrap Lazarus and a table to represent the tomb.

**Let younger children** act out these roles:

**Disciples**

**Thomas**

**Messenger**

**Lazarus**

**People at the tomb**

### Part One

**Narrator:** Tell the **first part** of the story, John 11:1-16. Then say, “Hear what Lazarus says.”

**Lazarus:** “I feel very sick. I think I am going to die.”

**Martha:** “Messenger! Go quickly to tell Jesus to come and heal his friend.”

**Messenger:** Run to Jesus and say, “Jesus, come quickly! Your friend Lazarus is dying.”

**Jesus:** “This will not end in death. I must wait a few days, so that God will be glorified.” (Sit)

**Narrator:** “A few days pass.”

**Jesus:** Stand and say, “Now it is time to go.”

**Disciples:** “Jesus, you must not go to Lazarus’ house!” “The Jews there want to kill you!”

**Jesus:** “Lazarus is asleep. We will wake him up.” Walk toward where Lazarus is.

**Thomas:** “Then let us go and die with Jesus.”

### Part Two

**Narrator:** Tell the second part of the story, John 11:17-28. Then say, “Hear what Lazarus’ Martha says.”

**Martha:** Weep and wrap Lazarus in cloth. Then lay him on the floor under a table. Then notice Jesus. Go to him and say, “Lord, Lazarus died four days ago. If you had been here, Lazarus would not have died.”

**Jesus:** “Your brother will live again. Do you know I am the resurrection and the life?”

**Martha:** “Yes, I know that.”

**Narrator:** Tell the third part of the story, John 11:29-44. Then say, “Hear what Jesus says.”

**Jesus:** “Where is Mary?”

**Mary:** Come running and say, “Jesus, why did you let my brother die?”

**Jesus:** “I feel very sad. Show me the tomb.”

**Mary:** Show Jesus where Lazarus lies.

**Jesus:** Look at Lazarus lying on the ground. Then weep and wipe tears from your eyes.

**People at the tomb:** “Look how much Jesus loved him.” “Yes, Jesus visited his friend Lazarus many times in his home.”

**Jesus:** Shout loudly, “Lazarus, come out!”

**Lazarus:** Stand up, wrapped in cloth.

**Jesus:** “Take the grave clothes off him and let him go!”

**People at the tomb:** Remove the cloths from Lazarus. Then say, “Look, he raised a dead man!” “Who is this Jesus?”

**Narrator or older child:** Explain that the drama is over and thank those who helped.

### Afterwards

**Ask questions.** If the children dramatize this story for the adults, let them also ask the adults the same questions that are listed above.