



HI, FRIEND!

This download includes chapter 1 from *Teaching Easter: 15 Hands-on Lessons to Help You Study, Teach, and Delight in the Gospel of Jesus Christ*, by Maria Eckersley. Watch Maria demonstrate this activity and lesson on LDS Living's YouTube channel today!

A few notes on the included pages:

The introduction page will help you understand where and when the Savior offered His teaching. It includes key verses pulled directly from the scriptures to help guide and simplify your study.

The "A Closer Look" section offers fresh insights about how to apply this teaching to our modern lives.

Under "Restored Connections," you'll find recent general conference quotes and accompanying scriptures, thoughtfully chosen to offer a fuller understanding of the topic.

The lesson also includes a section called "Inspired Activity," which features a memorable object lesson and hands-on fun to bring Jesus's teachings to life. The photo-based instruction pages will guide you through simple, step-by-step instructions for teaching and creating. The activity can be tailored for use in the classroom or at home.

The "Teaching Tips" page will help you adapt the topic and activity for various ages and settings. The tips include inspiring discussion questions and helpful considerations, allowing the lesson to extend beyond the Easter season.

Enjoy!

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Teaching Easter: 15 Hands-on Lessons to Help You Study, Teach, and Delight in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, by Maria Eckersley, is available at Deseret Book.



1

“I Am the
Resurrection
and the Life”

JOHN 11:5-7, 17, 20-29, 32-45

BETHANY

A CLOSER LOOK

In the days leading up to Holy Week, Lazarus fell gravely ill. His sisters, Mary and Martha, sent word to the Savior. Yet Jesus, who loved them deeply, intentionally delayed His arrival. His delay must have confused Mary and Martha, who had been righteous, patient, and obedient. They were a family of believers, yet when they needed Him most, He tarried.

In the Book of Mormon, King Lamoni's wife must have experienced similar fears. Her Lamanite husband had been converted to the Lord by the prophet Ammon and then fallen to the earth "as if he were dead" (Alma 18:42). For two days and two nights his family and kingdom mourned his death. When he was about to be taken to the burial sepulchre, the queen pleaded for the Nephite prophet's help. Ammon urged her to wait, promising, "on the morrow he shall rise again; therefore bury him not" (Alma 19:8).

In both stories, these women choose to sit in the storm of uncertainty, holding on to hope despite their desperate circumstances.

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. Martha went out to receive Him, where she bravely testified of His power. The Savior doesn't explain His late arrival, but He does ignite hope in her heart with these powerful words: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

The Savior then asks, "Believest thou this?"

Martha had not received the miracle she thought she wanted, yet she valiantly replied, "Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ."

In King Lamoni's court, when Ammon asks the same question of the queen, she bravely responds, "I have had no witness save thy word, . . . nevertheless I believe that it shall be according as thou hast said" (Alma 19:9).

In both stories, faith precedes the miracle: Lazarus rises at the Savior's command. King Lamoni awakens at the very hour Ammon appointed. Each delayed miracle deliberately

happens in public, creating a tipping point in the faith of a multitude.

Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf taught, "No matter how bleak the chapter of our lives may look

today, because of the life and sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we may hope and be assured that the ending of the book of our lives will exceed our grandest expectations."¹

The slow-motion miracles of Lazarus and King Lamoni remind us that faith in God includes faith in His timing. If we tenaciously hold on to our hope in Christ as these women did, the miracles we need will come. This Easter, let's choose to see our lingering adversities differently—not as obstacles to happiness but opportunities to testify in faith, trusting that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (1 Corinthians 2:9).

FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST INCLUDES FAITH IN HIS TIMING.

RESTORED CONNECTIONS

Miracles are wrought by divine power by Him who is “mighty to save” (Doctrine and Covenants 133:47). Miracles are extensions of God’s eternal plan; miracles are a lifeline from heaven to earth.

ELDER RONALD A. RASBAND

“BEHOLD! I AM A GOD OF MIRACLES” | APRIL 2021 GENERAL CONFERENCE

God invites us to grow by trusting His spiritual tutoring through soul-stretching experiences. Therefore, we can be sure that whatever trust we may have demonstrated in God in the past, another trust-stretching experience lies yet ahead. God is focused on our growth and progress.

ELDER PAUL B. PIEPER

“TRUST IN THE LORD” | APRIL 2024 GENERAL CONFERENCE

ALMA 7

11 And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people.

12 And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.

2 NEPHI 27

23 For behold, I am God; and I am a God of miracles; and I will show unto the world that I am the same yesterday, today, and forever; and I work not among the children of men save it be according to their faith.

MOSIAH 8

17 But a seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them, and also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known.

18 Thus God has provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; therefore he cometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.

INSPIRED ACTIVITIES

We believe in a God of miracles (see 2 Nephi 27:23). The scriptures are filled with examples of lives being changed through divine power. Some miracles happen quickly, while others unfold over time. This activity will help you understand a tiny fraction of the surprise others must have felt when, after four days in the tomb, the Savior called Lazarus forth.

First, you'll dunk a spoonful of unsweetened cocoa powder into milk and let it sit beneath the surface. While you wait an uncomfortably long time, think about the faith of women like Mary and Martha, who chose to trust in Christ despite their unanswered prayers. Next, you'll lift the spoon and see a pile of milky chocolate that seems beyond saving. However, when you prick the surface with a toothpick, the milk vanishes, revealing a shockingly dry, powdery mound.

As you repeat the dunking process a few more times, you'll start to see things differently. This surprising outcome mirrors the wonder of studying miracles in scripture. Stories like Lazarus rising, King Lamoni awakening, and Jesus Christ's Resurrection help us kindle our faith in God's limitless power. When we study the miracles in scripture, hope ignites in our hearts and our testimony of Jesus Christ deepens. Let this simple object lesson remind you to trust in His promises—one delightful dunk at a time.



INSTRUCTIONS



1. Gather your supplies:
You'll need a glass of milk, some unsweetened cocoa powder, a large spoon, and a toothpick or fork.



2. Get a heaping spoonful of cocoa powder: Fill the spoon with a generous amount of dry powder.



3. Dip it in the milk:
Carefully dip the entire spoonful of cocoa powder into the milk. Hold it under the surface of the milk for 10-15 seconds.



4. Lift it out: Raise the spoon from the milk, and you'll see that the top layer of the powder appears wet.



5. Poke the surface: Use a toothpick or fork to gently poke the surface of the cocoa powder on the spoon.



6. Watch the magic:
The cocoa powder will instantly appear dry again.



7. Repeat: You can continue to do this multiple times with the same spoonful of cocoa powder.



8. Tie it all together:
Teach the miracle of Lazarus and the value of faith. Testify about the Savior's ability to restore all things.

TEACHING TIPS

QUESTIONS

Which miracle from the scriptures do you wish you could witness up close? What is it about that story that excites or inspires you?

Are there miracles in your family history or personal experience that have helped develop your faith?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

Life experiences vary. Like Mary and Martha, some still wait for miracles or wonder why their prayers seem unanswered. As you teach, try to help others understand why miracles don't always happen in the way or timing we expect (see Doctrine and Covenants 88:68). Emphasize that no prayer or priesthood blessing can work contrary to the Lord's will. Elder Brent H. Nielson reminded us that sometimes we're so focused on the physical healing that we fail to see the other miracles that have occurred. He taught that increased strength, resilience, and gratitude often flow in when healing is inexplicably withheld.²

This would also be a good opportunity to discuss the sacred nature of miracles. They are gifts from God and should be treated with reverence (see Doctrine and Covenants 63:64). Help those you teach seek the Spirit to guide them in deciding what to share with others and what to hold close.