

Compassion and Power: Jesus Raises the Widow's Son



Explore Jesus' compassion and authority over death through the story of the widow's son in Nain and related Gospel passages.

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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study on the powerful and compassionate work of Jesus in the Gospels, focusing on the remarkable event where He raises the widow's son in Nain. This story, found in *Luke 7:11–17*, captures not only Jesus' authority over death but also His deep compassion for those who are suffering. As we walk through this passage and related scriptures from the Gospels, we will see how Jesus brings hope, restoration, and life, revealing His heart for humanity.

Death has always been mankind's greatest enemy, causing grief and despair. Yet, in the Gospels, we encounter moments when Jesus confronts death, demonstrates His divine power, and offers a glimpse of eternal life. The raising of the widow's son is unique because it happened spontaneously, out of Jesus' compassion, highlighting that His miracles are not just displays of power but acts of love.

Throughout this study, we will explore this event alongside other moments where Jesus demonstrated His authority over death and suffering. Each day will invite you into a deeper understanding of who Jesus is—both fully human in His empathy and fully divine in His power.

As you engage with the Scriptures, reflect on the profound hope that these stories offer. Jesus is not distant or unfeeling; He meets us in our brokenness and grief. Through His resurrection power, He promises restoration, peace, and the blessing of everlasting life.



May this journey through the Gospels inspire your faith, bring comfort to your heart, and encourage you to trust in Jesus' compassion and power in every season of life. Let's embark together, ready to witness the life-giving impact of Jesus' love.





Day 1: 🌅 A Compassionate Savior Appears



Day 1: 🌅 A Compassionate Savior Appears

Your Verse

Luke 7:11-17 NIV - "When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry.'"

Supporting Scriptures

- *Psalm 34:18 - "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*
- *Matthew 9:36 - "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*



Day 1: 🌅 A Compassionate Savior Appears

Devotional: Jesus' Heart for Our Suffering

In Luke 7:11-17, we see a vivid portrait of Jesus' compassion. As He approaches the town of Nain, a funeral procession is underway. The crowd witnesses a bereaved widow losing her only son—an irreversible loss especially devastating in that culture. Yet, when Jesus sees her, He does not turn away or remain indifferent. Instead, *His heart goes out to her*, embodying tender empathy uncommon even among the best of us.

This passage beautifully illustrates that Jesus' mission is not simply to demonstrate power but to comfort and restore those in pain. His command, "Don't cry," signals hope amidst grief. Jesus doesn't minimize the loss; He enters into it. We are reminded that God is intimately near to those who are brokenhearted (*Psalms 34:18*) and that true compassion isn't passive but active.

Reflect on your own moments of sorrow or hardship. Do you sense Jesus near, his heart moved for you? When life's weight feels overwhelming, His compassion is a refuge. Jesus identifies with our pain and meets us where we are, inviting us to trust Him for comfort and restoration.



Day 1:  A Compassionate Savior Appears

Reflect and Apply

1. How does knowing Jesus' heart goes out to those who suffer affect your view of Him?

2. In what ways can you allow Jesus' compassion to bring comfort during your difficult times?

3. How might you emulate Jesus' active compassion in your own community?



Day 1:  A Compassionate Savior Appears

Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a time you felt deeply comforted by God's presence.

2. Write about a loss or sorrow and how Jesus' words, "Don't cry," speak to your heart.

3. List practical ways you can show compassion like Jesus to others this week.



Day 1: 🌅 A Compassionate Savior Appears

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your tender heart toward those who suffer. Thank You that You are not distant but deeply moved by our pain. Help me to lean into Your comfort and to rely on Your presence in moments of grief. Teach me to show Your love to those around me who are hurting. *May Your compassion flow through me as a living testimony of Your grace.* Amen. 🙏❤️🌿





Day 2: 🕊️ Power Over Death Revealed



Day 2: 🐣 Power Over Death Revealed

Your Verse

Luke 7:14-15 NIV – “He went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 11:43-44 – “Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen.”*
- *Mark 5:41-42 – “He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha koum!’ (which means, ‘Little girl, I say to you, get up!’).”*



Day 2:  Power Over Death Revealed

Devotional: Jesus' Authority to Bring Life

Jesus' command, *"Young man, I say to you, get up!"*, demonstrates His divine authority over death itself. The raise of the widow's son was a startling announcement that God's kingdom had come in power to reverse even the finality of death.

Unlike many miracles that heal the living, this one restores life to the dead—showing that Jesus is the source of resurrection power. This echoes other Gospel accounts such as Jesus raising Lazarus and the daughter of Jairus, reinforcing that life springs from Him alone (*John 11:43-44; Mark 5:41-42*).

The miracle challenges us to trust Jesus not only for physical healing but for spiritual renewal and eternal life. It invites a faith that believes in the impossible and hopes beyond death's shadow.

How does Jesus' authority over death shape your understanding of His power in your life today? In what ways might you invite Him to bring new life in areas you feel lifeless or hopeless? Remember, the same voice that called the dead to rise still speaks over your fears and despair.



Day 2: 🕊️ Power Over Death Revealed

Reflect and Apply

1. What does Jesus' power over death mean for your personal faith journey?

2. Are there 'dead' areas in your life where you need Jesus to bring new life?
What are they?

3. How can you hold onto hope when circumstances feel impossible to change?



Day 2:  Power Over Death Revealed

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a situation where you experienced new life or hope through Jesus.

2. Reflect on any fears you have about death or loss and how Scripture addresses those fears.

3. Pray through areas needing resurrection power in your life and surrender them to God.



Day 2: 🕊️ Power Over Death Revealed

Prayer for Today

Almighty God, thank You for Your power to bring life out of death. Thank You that Jesus holds authority even over the grave. Help me to trust in His resurrection power in every area of my life, especially where I feel hopeless or broken. Give me courage to believe for new beginnings and to rest in the eternal hope You provide. Amen. 🕊️ 🔥 ✨





Day 3: 💞 Jesus Meets Our Deepest Needs



Day 3: ❤️ Jesus Meets Our Deepest Needs

Your Verse

Matthew 9:36 NIV - "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Supporting Scriptures

- *Luke 7:13 - "When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her..."*
- *Mark 6:34 - "Jesus saw the large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd."*



Day 3: ❤️ Jesus Meets Our Deepest Needs

Devotional: The Compassion That Sees Our Souls

Jesus doesn't just heal physical ailments; He sees into the very soul of those suffering. Matthew 9:36 and parallel passages reveal a Savior attentive to the needs of hurting people, feeling deeply for their pain and confusion.

In the story of the widow's son, Jesus meets not only the physical death of a young man but also the emotional and social devastation of a lonely widow. His compassion encompasses every layer of human need—physical, emotional, and relational.

This challenges us to consider how Jesus meets our own multifaceted needs. Whether we feel broken, lost, or overwhelmed, He sees us fully and comes near with empathy and healing.

Jesus' compassion also calls us to extend that same empathy to others. His example models a heart that notices and cares deeply for the struggles around Him, encouraging us to respond with grace and love.



Reflect and Apply

1. How have you experienced Jesus' compassion in your life?

2. What are the layers of your current struggle that need God's healing touch?

3. In what ways can you better see and respond to the needs of those around you?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time someone showed you compassion like Jesus does.

2. Identify areas in your life where you need Jesus' healing and presence.

3. List ways you can show compassion to people you encounter this week.



Day 3: ❤️ Jesus Meets Our Deepest Needs

Prayer for Today

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your compassionate heart that sees every need I have. Help me to feel Your presence deeply in my pain and to trust You with every part of my life. Teach me to love others with the same empathy You show, that I may be a reflection of Your grace. Amen. ❤️ 🙏 🌸





Day 4: Trusting in Jesus' Word



Day 4:  Trusting in Jesus' Word

Your Verse

Luke 7:14 NIV – “He said, ‘Young man, I say to you, get up!’”

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 5:24 – “Whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life.”*
- *Hebrews 11:1 – “Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”*



Day 4:  Trusting in Jesus' Word

Devotional: Faith in Jesus' Life-Giving Word

Jesus' spoken command to the dead man in Nain reminds us of the power and authority embedded in His words. When He speaks, life flows forth. This aspect of the story calls us to respond with faith—believing Jesus' promises even when we cannot see immediate evidence.

In Scripture, Jesus' words are described as living and active (*Hebrews 4:12*), capable of transforming hearts and circumstances. Trusting in His word means embracing the hope He offers for restoration, healing, and eternal life.

The raising of the widow's son encourages us to place unwavering confidence in Jesus' commands over our circumstances. It is an invitation to faith that says, "Even when things seem hopeless, I believe your word, Lord."

Consider areas where doubt or fear hinder your trust in God's promises. How can you cultivate deeper faith in His life-giving word today?



Day 4:  Trusting in Jesus' Word

Reflect and Apply

1. How does Jesus' ability to bring life with His word inspire your faith?

2. Where might you be holding back trust in His promises because of fear or doubt?

3. What practical steps can you take to nurture faith in God's word daily?



Day 4:  Trusting in Jesus' Word

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a promise from Scripture that has strengthened your faith.

2. Reflect on a time when trusting Jesus' word led to a breakthrough in your life.

3. Meditate on Luke 7:14 and journal what it means for you personally.



Day 4: 🗝️ Trusting in Jesus' Word

Prayer for Today

Father God, thank You for the power in Jesus' words that bring life, hope, and restoration. Help me to trust Your word fully, especially when circumstances look bleak. Strengthen my faith to rest in Your promises and walk confidently in Your truth. May Your word be a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Amen. 📖 ✨ 🙏





Day 5: ✨ Witnessing God's Glory



Day 5: ✨ Witnessing God's Glory

Your Verse

Luke 7:16 NIV – “They were all filled with awe and praised God. ‘A great prophet has appeared among us,’ and ‘God has come to help his people.’”

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 2:11 – “What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory.”*
- *Matthew 9:8 – “The crowd was amazed and gave praise to God, who had given such authority to men.”*



Day 5: ✨ Witnessing God's Glory

Devotional: Recognizing God's Presence in Jesus

After witnessing the miraculous raising of the widow's son, the crowd recognized God's glory revealed through Jesus. Their response was awe, praise, and the acknowledgment that God had come to help His people.

This recognition points us toward a vital truth: Jesus' miracles are not merely displays of power, but manifestations of God's kingdom breaking into the world. Each miracle reveals His nature and mission—to restore, renew, and draw people to Himself.

As followers of Christ, we are invited to cultivate a heart of awe that responds to God's work around us. The Gospels challenge us to see Jesus—not just as a historical figure but as the living manifestation of God's glory and help.

How can you open your eyes and heart to perceive God's presence and glory in your daily life? Are you ready to respond with praise and wonder?



Day 5: ✨ Witnessing God's Glory

Reflect and Apply

1. What experiences in your life have led you to awe and praise of God?

2. How do you recognize God's glory revealed through Jesus today?

3. In what ways can you cultivate a deeper awareness of God's presence?



Day 5: ✨ Witnessing God's Glory

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a moment when you clearly saw God's hand at work.

2. Journal your thoughts on what it means that God has come to help His people.

3. List things in your daily life that can inspire awe and praise in your heart.



Day 5: ✨ Witnessing God's Glory

Prayer for Today

Lord, I stand in awe of Your glory revealed through Jesus. Thank You for coming to help Your people and for showing Yourself in acts of power and love. Open my eyes to see Your presence and stir my heart to praise You continually. May my life reflect Your glory to those around me. Amen. 🙌 ✨





Day 6: 💡 Lessons from Jesus' Compassionate Power



Your Verse

Luke 7:17 NIV – “This news about Jesus spread through the whole Judean countryside.”

Supporting Scriptures

- *Acts 4:33 – “With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.”*
- *John 14:12 – “Whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these.”*



Devotional: Living Out the Compassion and Power of Christ

The story of Jesus raising the widow's son didn't stay hidden; it spread rapidly throughout the region. This reminds us that the impact of Jesus' compassion and power is not meant to be contained but shared.

As His followers, we are called to carry the same compassion and demonstration of God's power into our daily lives. This might look like acts of kindness, standing with the broken, or sharing the hope of resurrection life through our words and deeds.

Jesus promised His disciples that they would do even greater works through the power of the Holy Spirit (*John 14:12*). Today, you have the opportunity to extend Jesus' compassion and power to your community, becoming a conduit of God's healing and life.

Consider how your life can reflect Jesus' heart of mercy and His authority to bring life in a world in need.



Reflect and Apply

1. How is God calling you to demonstrate His compassion to others?

2. What 'greater things' might God equip you to do in His name?

3. Are you willing to be a living testimony of Jesus' power in your community?



Journaling Prompts

1. Write down ways you have seen or can participate in God's work of compassion.

2. Reflect on how your faith can influence those around you.

3. Pray and journal about your next step in living out Jesus' mission.



Day 6: 💡 Lessons from Jesus' Compassionate Power

Prayer for Today

Father, empower me to live out the compassion and power of Jesus in my daily life. Help me to be a witness of Your salvation, sharing hope, healing, and love wherever I go. Fill me with Your Spirit to do the works You have called me to do. May Your name be glorified through my actions. Amen. 🔥🙏





Day 7: 🌈 Hope in Resurrection Life



Day 7:  Hope in Resurrection Life

Your Verse

1 Corinthians 15:20 NIV - "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

Supporting Scriptures

- *John 11:25 - "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."*
- *Romans 6:4 - "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may live a new life."*



Day 7:  Hope in Resurrection Life

Devotional: Living in the Resurrection Hope

The story of the widow's son being raised points forward to the greatest miracle of all: Jesus' own resurrection. This event guarantees victory over death and offers all believers hope for eternal life.

1 Corinthians 15 celebrates Christ as the firstfruit of those who have died and been raised, assuring us that death does not have the final word. Jesus' triumph invites us to live not as those hopeless or defeated but as people filled with resurrection hope.

This hope transforms how we view suffering, loss, and even death. It empowers us to face each day with confidence and joy, resting in the promise that we will one day be raised to everlasting life.

As you conclude this study, reflect on how Jesus' power over death and deep compassion can shape your life now and forever.



Day 7:  Hope in Resurrection Life

Reflect and Apply

1. How does the resurrection of Jesus influence your view of death and eternity?

2. In what ways can you live out the hope of resurrection daily?

3. What fears or doubts about death can you surrender to God today?



Day 7:  Hope in Resurrection Life

Journaling Prompts

1. Write about what the resurrection means personally to you.

2. Reflect on how this hope affects your relationships and priorities.

3. Pray and journal your commitment to live in resurrection hope.



Day 7: 🌈 Hope in Resurrection Life

Prayer for Today

Dear Jesus, thank You for conquering death and bringing us resurrection life. Help me to live each day in the hope and joy of Your victory. May I be a witness of Your eternal life to a world that desperately needs to know You. Strengthen my faith and prepare my heart for the day I will be with You forever. Amen. ✝️ 🌅 🌟





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