

# KIDS FOR YAH

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## Lazarus and His Sisters

In Yahshua's day, there was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany near Jerusalem. Lazarus had two sisters named Martha and Mary (more properly, Miriam). Yahshua loved this family deeply and often stopped to visit them at their home. Martha liked to prepare special dishes for Yahshua when he visited, but Mary preferred to sit at Yahshua's feet and listen to His teachings. One day Martha became angry because Mary was not helping her and she wanted Yahshua to rebuke her. But Yahshua gently corrected Martha and told her not to worry so much about unimportant things. He commended Mary for wanting to listen and learn and He would not take those things away from her.



### Mary & Martha

During Bible times, caves were used as tombs. The soil in Israel was quite hard and stony, so it was easier to place a dead body in a cave rather than digging a hole in the ground.

One day, Lazarus became ill. Mary and Martha sent word to Yahshua and requested He come and heal him. But Yahshua intentionally delayed going so that He could teach them an important lesson. By the time that Yahshua finally went, Lazarus had been dead four days. Mary and Martha were deeply grieved. Lazarus had already been placed in a tomb.

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Martha said to Yahshua our King:

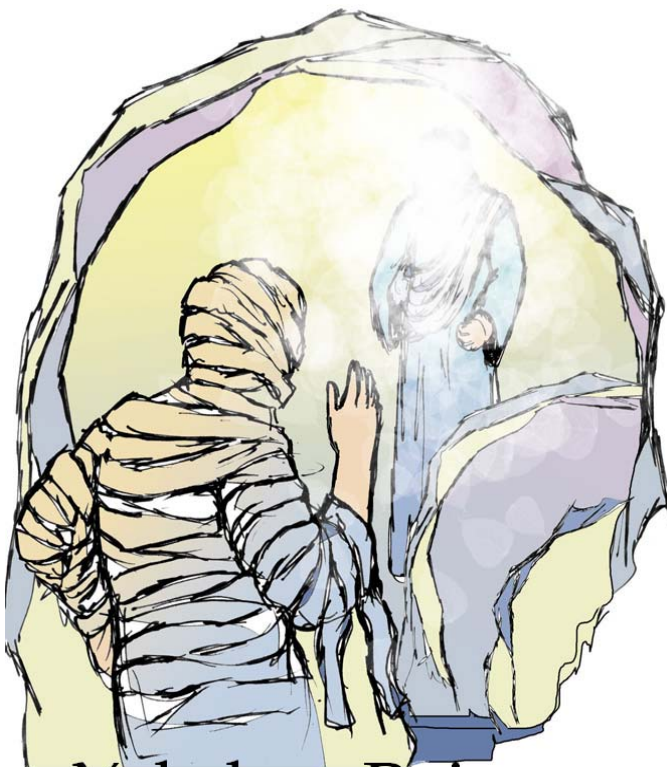
“I know that even now Yahweh will give you anything you ask.”

—John 11:22

Because Israel has a hot, desert-like climate, bodies decomposed very quickly and needed to be placed in the tomb as quickly as possible. Bodies were prepared by being rubbed with certain spices and wrapped tightly with cloth. Then the people would place a boulder at the cave opening to close off the entrance and prevent anyone from disturbing the body. Later after some months would pass, the family would re-enter the cave and gather up the bones. They would place the bones in special jars. Then the tomb would be ready to use again. Entire families would share the same tomb.

It was time for Yahshua to teach the people an important truth. "Remove the stone from the tomb." He ordered.

"But, Master!" protested Martha, "By now the body smells bad as he has been dead for four days!"



## Yahshua Raises Lazarus from the Dead

Yet another lesson we can glean is that we need to focus on the important things in life. Like Martha, who was preoccupied with preparing fancy meals, we can sometimes focus on the less important things too. There is nothing wrong with wanting to prepare a fancy meal, but sometimes a simple meal is fine too. That way we can spend more time learning from Yahshua. Following Yahweh's way of life is really absolutely the most important thing we all can do!

"If you believe, I will show you Yahweh's glory!" Yahshua then commanded Lazarus to come forth from the tomb. And he did come forth, still wrapped in the burial cloths!

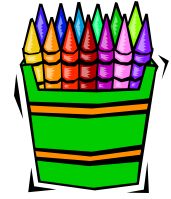
When the priests heard what had happened, they were shocked and then made plans to have Yahshua executed.

So what lessons can we glean from the story of Lazarus and his sisters? First of all we can learn that death does not have to be final. Yahshua was able to bring a dead person back to life. Since Adam and Eve, death has been the enemy of all mankind. Yahweh made it possible through Yahshua to overcome that enemy.

Another thing we can remember is that Yahshua had a good reason for delaying healing Lazarus. Sometimes when we are going through painful trials, we want Yahweh to remove them right away. But sometimes we can learn deeper lessons by not having our trials immediately removed. For instance, we can learn patience—which is a very important fruit of the spirit.



# Summer is Here



Summer is the favorite season of many children. School is usually out and the days are long, warm, and sunny. There are lots of ways to enjoy Yahweh's creation outdoors! Whether you like hiking, swimming, biking, or just stopping to pick wildflowers, there's no reason to ever be bored in summertime!





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# The Fruit of the Spirit

In Galatians 5:22, we read about the fruit of the spirit. Paul was using terms that the Galatians could understand. Because they were farmers, they would easily identify with farming terms. For instance, if you "plant" bad seeds in life, you will "reap" a bad harvest. But if you have the fruit of the spirit you will reap an eternal harvest. Draw a line through the words that do **NOT** describe the fruit of the spirit. Circle the words that do describe the fruit of the spirit.

Jealousy                      Love

Goodness                      Self-control

Unfaithfulness                      Faithfulness

Misery

Cruelty

Kindness

Hatred

Peace

Joy

Anger

Gentleness

Impatience

Insulting

Patience

Coveting