

Goodbye, Goldie

A 20-minute lesson for Sunday school, VBS or midweek kids · Psalm 34:18

Questions or a church request: hello@ljandfamily.com · ljandfamily.com

AGES	4–10 (adaptations for 3–5 and 10–12 at the end)
YOU NEED	A screen for the episode · smooth stones or paper circles · paint pens, markers or crayons · a box of tissues nearby · the coloring page
EPISODE	Ep 9, Goodbye, Goldie (3:25) · youtu.be/ZJgxp4IBNLs
MEMORY VERSE	“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted.” Psalm 34:18
BIBLE STORY	Jesus weeps and raises Lazarus, John 11:32–44
THE ONE THING THEY TAKE HOME	It’s okay to be sad. God is close to the brokenhearted, Jesus cried too, and He is stronger than even death.

The class plan

MIN		WHAT HAPPENS
0–2	Welcome	Ask: “Who has a pet, or had one?” Let a few children share a name.
2–6	Watch	Show Ep 9, Goodbye, Goldie (3:25).
6–10	Talk	Three questions below. Let them answer before you do.
10–13	Bible	Tell Jesus and Lazarus from John 11:32–44.
13–18	Activity	Make a remembering stone (below).
18–20	Pray	Close with the episode prayer.

Talk about it (5 minutes)

1. Have you ever lost a pet or something you loved? How did it feel?

Listen without rushing to cheer them up. Name it: being sad shows we loved them, and that is a good thing.

2. What did Mom, Dad, Mr. Walter and Grandma each do to help LJ?

Mom: held him and let him cry. Dad: shared his own story and a true verse. Mr. Walter: brought flowers. Grandma: opened the Bible.

3. Jesus cried with His friends. How does it help to know that Jesus is sad with us when we are sad?

Listen for “He understands” and “we’re not alone.” Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus, and He still cried with His friends.

Open the Bible (4 minutes)

“Yahweh is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves those who have a crushed spirit.” Psalm 34:18 (WEB)

How to tell it

Have the children sit close. Tell how Jesus' friend Lazarus got sick and died, and how sad his sisters Mary and Martha were. Read John 11:33–35 slowly and pause on “Jesus wept.” Ask: why do you think Jesus cried? Then have everyone stand up together at “Lazarus, come out!” (John 11:43) and cheer as Lazarus walks out of the tomb.

Going deeper with older kids

With older kids, read John 11:25–26, where Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life.” Talk about how Jesus both shares our sadness and gives us hope, and read Revelation 21:4 about God wiping away every tear.

Activity: Make a remembering stone (4 minutes)

- Give each child a smooth stone or a paper circle.
- Invite them to draw or paint something they love: a pet, a grandparent, a friend, or a favorite memory.
- Write “God is near” on the back, or help younger children trace it.
- Send the stones home to keep somewhere special.

A WORD OF CARE

Some children are grieving right now: a pet, a grandparent, a parent or a friend. Never push a child to share, and never promise what happens to pets after death. Let tears be welcome, keep tissues close, and if a child shares a recent or serious loss, follow up gently and privately with a parent.

Close in prayer (2 minutes)

Have the children fold their hands and repeat after you, one line at a time:

God, thank You for the people and pets we love. When my heart hurts, help me remember that You are close to me and You see every tear. Amen.

Adaptations

Ages 3–5

Skip question 3. Draw a heart on the stone and say just “God is near.”

Ages 10–12

Do the Going Deeper section. Invite them to write a short thank-you prayer for someone they love.

Large group

Do the stones at tables in small groups. Take three answers to each question.

Short on time (10 minutes)

Watch from Grandma's Bible to the end (1), one question (2), tell Lazarus (3), make a paper stone (2), pray (2).

A note for teachers

Keep the tone gentle and unhurried. The point is not to fix sadness quickly, but to show that sadness is a sign of love, that God is near, and that Jesus understands because He cried too.

Send the family guide home with every child so families can watch and talk about it together. It is free to print and share at ljandfamily.com.