



*Jesus* went with His disciples to a city called Nain. When Jesus was entering the city, He saw a dead man being carried in a coffin. The dead man was the only son of his mother. His mother was a widow. A large crowd of people from the city followed the woman and her dead son.

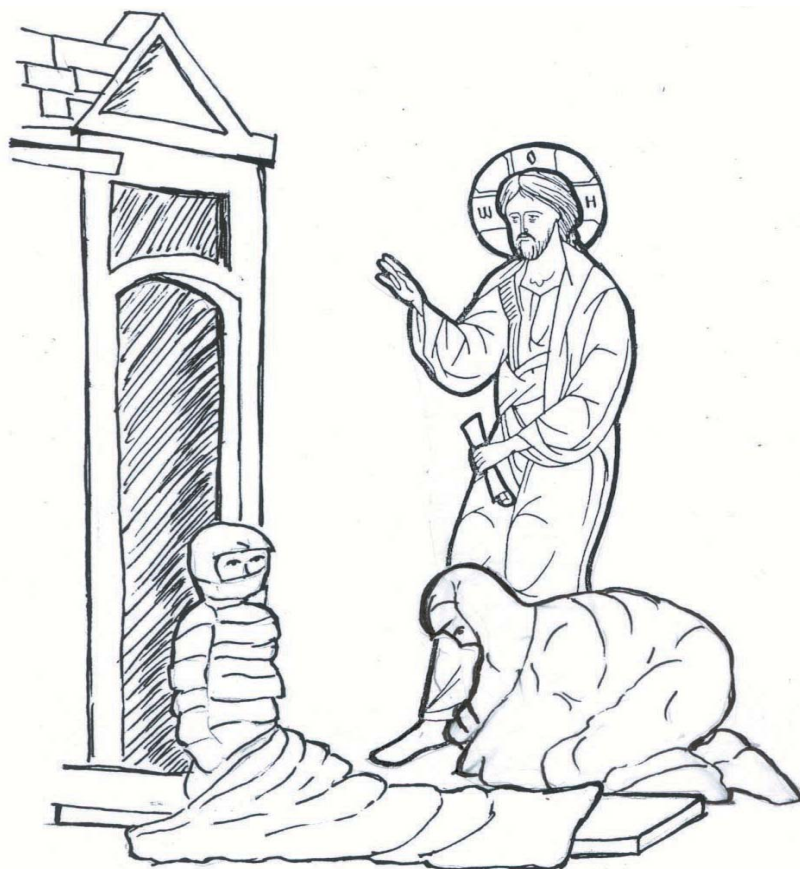
When Jesus saw the woman, He told her not to cry. Then He touched the coffin and said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." The young man sat up and began to speak. Jesus showed the man to his mother. The whole crowd of people was amazed at the miracle they had seen Jesus perform! They all glorified God!

1 Prior to reading the lesson, review new words: Nain, disciples, coffin, widow, crowd

2. Recall the story by asking the following questions. (Answers will vary. Suggested answers are not necessarily the only correct answers.)

- When Jesus arrived at the city of Nain, what did He see? (A crowd, a widow, a coffin, a dead man.)
- What did Jesus say to the widow? (Don't cry, don't be sad.)
- What did Jesus do next? (He touched the coffin, told the young man to arise.)
- What happened after that? (The dead man sat up and spoke, rose from the dead.)
- What did the people do? (They glorified God.)
- How do you think his mother felt? (Happy, amazed.)

When Jesus saw the dead man and his mother, He realized how very sad the mother was. Jesus chose to raise her son from the dead. The story reminds us of Pascha when we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead. The story reminds us that every person has the chance to be raised from the dead to live with God forever.



**Jesus** went to a city called Nain. With Him went many of His disciples. When Jesus was entering the city, He saw a dead man being carried out in an open coffin. The dead man was the only son of his mother who was a widow. There was a large crowd from the city with the widow.

When the Lord saw her, He was deeply moved and had compassion on her. He said to the widow, “Do not weep.” Then Jesus went to the open coffin and touched it. The people who were carrying the coffin stood very still. While touching the coffin Jesus said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” The man who was dead sat up and began to speak. Jesus presented the son to his mother.

The people were amazed at what they had seen, and they glorified God!

1. Prior to reading the lesson review vocabulary with children: widow, compassion, weep, coffin, mourn.

2. Discuss the events of the story in sequence using questions to evoke the following responses:

- a) Jesus went to the city of Nain with His disciples.
- b) There He saw a dead man being carried in an open coffin.
- c) The dead man was the only son of a widow.
- d) Jesus had compassion on her and told her not to cry.
- e) Jesus touched the coffin and told the young man to arise.
- f) The man sat up and began to speak.

Suggestion: Write these events on sentence strips, flash cards, or sheets of paper and have children put them in the correct order.

3. Why do you think Jesus had such deep compassion for the widow? (Explain: in those days the son of a widow was also her provider.)

4. Have you ever felt very sorry for someone, or very upset about what was happening to them?

Jesus could not bear to see the widow without her son to provide for her. He raised her son from the dead. This story teaches us that Jesus loves us. It shows that He has power over life and death. It reminds us of Pascha, when we celebrate His resurrection. It gives us hope that one day we will be raised from the dead to be with God forever.



*At that time,*

Jesus went to a city called Na'in, and many of his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

1. Who is a widow?
2. Do you know anyone who is a widow? Does that person need help from other people to get things done? Who helps her?
3. If the people who normally help the widow you know were no longer there to help her what would she do? How do you think she would feel?
4. For whom does Jesus perform

- this miracle, and why?
5. After the dead man in the gospel sits up and speaks what does Jesus do? Why do you think he did that?
6. Listen carefully to the Troparion in Tone 2 this Sunday that begins: "When thou didst submit thyself unto death." What do we sing about Jesus Christ in that song that is similar to the gospel we have been discussing?

7. Who does this song say our life comes from?
8. If the young man in the gospel is given life so he can help his mother, why do you think Jesus gives us life?
9. Who can you help this week to thank Jesus for giving you life? What can you do to help that person?



*At that time,*

Jesus went to a city called Na'in, and many of his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

1. What does Jesus do after the young man sits up and speaks? Why do you think he does that?
2. Does Jesus raise the young man from the dead because that is what the young man wanted? Who does he do it for?
3. What does that suggest about what the young man should do with the life he has been given?
4. What do you think about that? Is it fair? Right? Just? Why do you think that?
5. Listen to the Troparion in Tone 2 this Sunday. What does that hymn suggest about our lives that is similar to the gospel we have been discussing?
6. If our lives are a gift from Jesus Christ

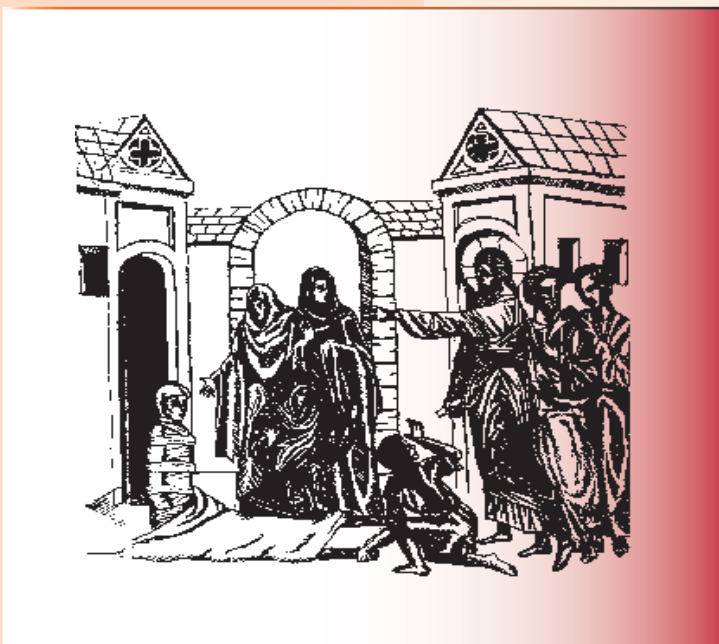
- just like the young man's life was a gift from Jesus, what does that suggest about what we should do with the lives we have been given?
7. What do you think of this idea that our lives aren't ours but are rather a gift to other people?
8. If a person agrees with this idea, what actions would she do? What actions have you seen people do that shows they think their lives are a gift from God for the sake of other people?
9. What action might you do this week to show you think your life is a gift from Jesus to other people?

## *At that time,*

Jesus went to a city called Na'in, and many of his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and

she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said

to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"



1. What does Jesus do after the young man sits up? Why?
2. Does Jesus raise the young man because that is what the young man wanted? Why does Jesus raise the young man from the dead?
3. What does that say about the purpose of the young man's life?
4. What do the people in the crowd do after Jesus raises the dead man? Why do you think they did that?
5. Listen to the Troparion in Tone 2 during the Divine Liturgy this Sunday. What do we sing in response to the hymn's claim

that Christ is the giver of life? How is that similar to the gospel?

6. What does this connection suggest about the purpose of our lives? What do you think about that idea? Which parts of it do you like? Why? Which parts of it do you dislike? Why?
7. If your life is a gift from Jesus for the sake of another person, who do you think your life is given to? Why do you think that? Do you think your life is always given to one other person or does it change depending on the situation? Explain.
8. What action might you do this week to demonstrate that your life is a gift to another person? What action might you do this week to thank God for the gift of life?