

## WARM-UP

- Have you ever received something unexpectedly?  
How did you react?
- Have you ever lost something valuable to you?  
How did you feel?
- Has anyone ever seen you crying and told you to stop?  
Tell us what happened.

**WORD** *<sup>15</sup>And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. <sup>16</sup>Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" <sup>17</sup>And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. **LUKE 7:15-17***

(Read also **LUKE 7:11-14.**)

Sometimes, we face situations that are hard to bear and almost seem impossible to overcome; we cry and feel hopeless. But Jesus proves in this story that there is no situation beyond His compassion and grace. Today, we will look at how Jesus turned a widow's hopeless situation around by raising her dead son to life.

## 1 | The widow was in a hopeless situation.

*As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her.* **LUKE 7:12**

In ancient Jewish culture, women had no way to provide for themselves; they depended solely on their husbands or sons. So this widow who had lost her only son lost not just a loved one, but also her means to survive. This and the immense grief brought by her loss paint us a picture of despair. But as hopeless as her situation seemed, Jesus can always turn things around—even seemingly impossible circumstances. Have you ever faced a similar predicament? What does Psalm 42:11 say about where we can anchor our hope?

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## 2 | Jesus showed compassion and brought hope to the widow.

*<sup>13</sup>And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." <sup>14</sup>Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." <sup>15</sup>And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.* **LUKE 7:13-15**

Upon seeing the widow, Jesus stopped and showed immense compassion for her. Without being asked, He raised her son from the dead and instantly turned her hopeless situation into a glorious testimony. Like what happened to the widow, our painful circumstances can be turned into powerful testimonies by His grace. What does Psalm 103:13 say about God? How has He shown His grace and compassion in your life in the midst of challenges and trials?

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## The crowd glorified God and told others about what Jesus had done.

*<sup>16</sup>Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"*

*<sup>17</sup>And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. **LUKE 7:16,17***

Seeing the miracle Jesus had done, the crowd began praising God. It was something they never expected to happen and witness altogether. When we experience breakthroughs in our lives, we can't help but praise God and tell others about what He has done. According to Psalm 9:1, how should we respond when God does mighty things in our midst? Have you heard a powerful testimony that you kept sharing with others, too?

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### APPLICATION

- Do you believe that Jesus can answer your deepest prayers and turn your most hopeless situation into joy? How will you look at your problems or difficult situations in light of the hope we have in Him?
- Do you believe that Jesus is rich in compassion and understands your pain? What can you do this week to extend the same compassion to others?
- Do you know people who are dealing with grief and loss? Share how you can encourage those who are going through a difficult time through God's mercy and love today.

