

WEEK OF MAY 10, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



*Raising the Widow's Son
Mother's Day Message
Luke 7:11-17*

Provided by



AKRONGRACE

AKRON GRACE CHURCH
101 N. 7th Street, Akron PA
www.akrongrace.com

Listen to the full message on our YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@akrongracechurch6363

Luke 7:11-17

Soon afterward Jesus went with his disciples to the village of Nain, and a large crowd followed him. A funeral procession was coming out as he approached the village gate. The young man who had died was a widow's only son, and a large crowd from the village was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said. Then he walked over to the coffin and touched it, and the bearers stopped. "Young man," he said, "I tell you, get up." Then the dead boy sat up and began to talk! And Jesus gave him back to his mother. Great fear swept the crowd, and they praised God, saying, "A mighty prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people today." And the news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding countryside.

Day 1: When Death Feels Final

Devotional

Death touches every life. Whether it's the loss of a grandparent who lived a full life or the tragic passing of someone far too young, we all face the harsh reality that life in this world ends. The sting of death leaves us feeling helpless, wondering if there's any hope beyond the grave. However, what if death doesn't have to be the author of our story? In Luke 7, Jesus encounters a funeral procession where a widow has lost her only son, her sole source of security and future. Instead of offering empty condolences, Jesus does something extraordinary. He speaks life back into death itself. This wasn't just a one-time miracle, but a preview of the ultimate victory over death that would come through his own resurrection. When we face loss and grief, we can remember that Jesus has already conquered the grave. Death may feel final, but it's not the end of the story for those who trust in him.

Bible Verse

'As Jesus approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her.' - Luke 7:12

Reflection Question

How does knowing that Jesus has conquered death change the way you view current losses or fears in your life?

Quote

Death is no longer the inevitable end. For those who know Jesus. God has taken the initiative for each and every one of us as he did for that weeping widow, inviting us. He's inviting us to trust in his work.

Prayer

Lord, when death feels overwhelming and final, remind me that you have already won the victory. Help me find hope in your promise of eternal life. Amen.

Day 2: God's Heart for the Broken

Devotional

The connection between the widow's only son and God's only son reveals something profound about God's heart. Just as this mother faced the devastating loss of her child, God the Father would watch his only Son die on a cross. However, here's the beautiful truth, God didn't sacrifice his Son because he was distant from our pain, but because he understood it intimately. John 3:16 shows us that God's love for a broken world was so great that he was willing to give what was most precious to him. When Jesus saw the widow's grief, he was moved with compassion, not pity from a distance, but deep, personal empathy. God doesn't stand apart from our suffering, he enters into it. Every tear you've shed, every loss you've experienced, every moment of grief, God sees it all and cares deeply. His response isn't indifference but active, life-giving love that reaches into our darkest moments.

Bible Verse

'For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.' - John 3:16

Reflection Question

How does understanding that God gave his only Son help you trust his heart toward you in your times of pain?

Quote

Jesus makes the first move. And if you don't know him straightforwardly, today is your invitation to accept Him as Savior and King of your life.

Prayer

Father, thank you for not remaining distant from my pain but entering into it through Jesus. Help me trust in your deep love for me. Amen.

Day 3: Empowered by His Spirit

Devotional

As followers of Christ, we don't walk through life alone or powerless. The same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus' ministry now lives within us, guiding and strengthening us for the work ahead. This isn't just a comforting thought, but a transformative reality that changes how we engage with a hurting world. When we encounter people who are grieving, struggling, or facing their own forms of death, they need to see Jesus. However, the amazing truth is that they can see Him through us. The Spirit within us enables us to reflect Christ's compassion, to offer genuine comfort, and to speak life into dark situations. We may not have the power to physically raise the dead like Jesus did, but we know the one who does. And through his Spirit, we can be conduits of His love, grace, and hope to those who desperately need it. Every interaction becomes an opportunity to demonstrate the reality of God's kingdom.

Bible Verse

'Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.' - Colossians 3:12

Reflection Question

In what specific ways can you allow the Holy Spirit to work through you to bring comfort and hope to someone who is hurting?

Quote

As followers of Christ, we have the indwelling of His Holy Spirit. He is empowering and guiding us. That means as we walk this earth, as we do this life, as we know people who are grieving in a broken world, they must see Him and they must see Him in you.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, fill me with your power and compassion. Use me as an instrument of your love to bring hope to those who are hurting around me. Amen.

Day 4: Speaking Life into Death

Devotional

We're surrounded by people experiencing different forms of death every day. It might not always be physical death. It could be broken relationships, shattered dreams, addiction, depression, or crushing disappointment. These are the modern funeral processions that pass by us daily, and like Jesus, we're called to respond with compassion and action. While we can't physically raise the dead, we can speak life into dead situations through the power of the gospel. We can tell people that death doesn't have to be the author of their story anymore because it never truly was. Satan wants people to believe there's nothing beyond this life, but through Jesus we have everything. Your neighbor no longer needs to be seized by fear or live in hopeless grief. You can share this eternity-changing truth as soon as today. Sometimes it starts with simply being present, offering a shoulder to cry on, and then gently pointing them to the one who conquered death itself.

Bible Verse

'But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.' - Romans 5:8

Reflection Question

Who in your life is experiencing a form of 'death' right now? How can you speak life into their situation this week?

Quote

Tell them that death does not have to be the author of their story anymore because it never truly was. Satan would love for people to believe there's nothing, but through Jesus we have everything.

Prayer

Jesus, give me eyes to see the hurting people around me and courage to speak your life-giving truth into their darkness. Amen.

Day 5: Faithful Stewards of Hope

Devotional

Every day presents opportunities to be faithful stewards of the good news we've received. We live in communities filled with people who don't know Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life. They're carrying burdens of grief, fear, and hopelessness that only He can lift. As we go about our daily lives, we can simultaneously be shoulders for the grieving to cry on and speakers of life who share the grace, love, and truth of Jesus' promises. This isn't about having all the right words or perfect theology, but about pointing people to the one who still speaks life into places marked by grief, fear, and death. May you carry His compassion well, bringing comfort through your presence and hope through your words. When you encounter people weighed down by sorrow, remember that you know the one who conquered the grave and still calls the dead to life. Your faithfulness in sharing this hope can change someone's eternity.

Bible Verse

'It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,' - 1 Peter 1:3b

Reflection Question

How will you commit to being a faithful steward of the hope you have in Christ, both in your words and actions this week?

Quote

We are all daily surrounded by people who are grieving and hurting in some capacity. Be faithful stewards the good news that you've heard and share it with them.

Prayer

Lord, help me be faithful in sharing the hope I have in you. Use my life to point others to your life-giving power and eternal promises. Amen.