

After Grandma Died

Key Word: **Promise**

Key Verse: Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" *John 11:40*

Anita didn't know why she felt bad. She only knew how miserable and unhappy she felt. Since her grandma died, Anita's mom cried almost all the time and didn't seem to have any energy. Anita's dad was sad, too.

None of the family had been to church since Grandma had died, because they all thought it was God's fault. They felt angry with the church and the pastor. How could he preach about God loving everyone, when God let Grandma die? Anita said, "I hate God."

Her pastor asked Anita why she hated God. She answered, "Because he took my grandma. That lady from the church told me my grandma died because Jesus wanted her to live with him in heaven. Well, it's not fair. She's my grandma, and I used visit her every day after school. Why should Jesus have her? He's got millions of people in heaven, he didn't need my grandma. Now Mommy keeps crying and Dad's upset all the time, and everybody shouts at me."

The pastor explained that Grandma died in an accident. He said, "It wasn't anyone's fault, but I don't believe it was God's fault either. Sometimes terrible things happen, but God is just as upset about them as we are."

Anita stared at him. "How do you know God's upset?"

"Well," replied the pastor, "when Jesus' great friend Lazarus died, Jesus cried because he was so upset."

"But Jesus brought Lazarus back to life again. Why couldn't he do that with my grandma?"

"Perhaps he brought Lazarus back to life to show that after people die, it isn't the end. Although you can't see your grandma anymore, she is still living, with Jesus. None of us know exactly what heaven will be like. We do know that after Jesus died, he was seen alive by many of his friends, in a different sort of way. He promised the same for all of us.

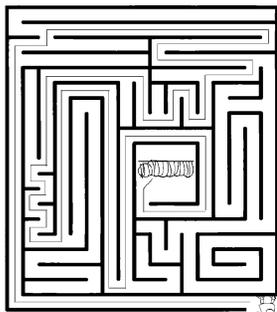
"Death is a terrible time for relatives and friends. It's really sad and painful. Try to remember that it's also awful for God, and that all he wants is to hug you and love you until it begins to feel better. Do you think you can allow him to do that?"

Anita nodded, "I'll try."

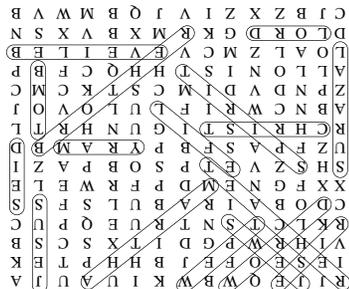
Questions

Why was Anita angry?

Tell about this special miracle Jesus performed.



Maze



Word Find

I am the resurrection
and the life.

Cryptogram

Answers

Gospel Grans

Today's Gospel Story
is from
John 11:1-45



