

# WHO'S THAT?

Elementary  
Week 2

## PARENT BIBLE STUDY

**Read: Luke 7:11-17, Isaiah 61:1-2**

*Each week of this series tells a different story about Jesus, the Savior God promised in Isaiah 61. We see a Jesus who was angry about injustice. We meet a Jesus who healed a woman's broken heart. We see a Jesus that came to set us free from whatever holds us. And we see a Jesus powerful enough to defeat death and bring life everlasting. We see Isaiah's words from years ago become flesh in Jesus.*

***"He has sent me to...proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...to comfort all who mourn," Isaiah 61:2.***

Grief and loss are part of the human experience. No one escapes life without feeling the pain of death. The woman in this story was not only dealing with the devastating loss of her son, but also her lifeline. As a widow without a son, she faced the reality of being a single and isolated woman in a culture where that meant she might not survive. But then she met Jesus. And Jesus met her with compassion and mercy. Luke tells us that "when the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry,'" Luke 7:13. Jesus' response of "don't cry" wasn't belittling or minimizing. It was deeply empathetic. Only he could say "don't cry" without dismissing her sorrow and at the same time remove the cause of her grief.

Jesus doesn't always remove the cause of our pain and grief like he did for this widow. But the truth remains that he came to comfort all who mourn. How? We cannot forget the humanness of Jesus. He defeated death forever, but he also had to die. He knows pain. He knows fear. He knows grief. He isn't just distantly patting us on the back and condescendingly telling us not to cry. He actually sees us. He can give us exactly what we need in our times of pain, fear, and loss *because he's been there*. We may not move on, but we can move forward because of the hope and comfort Jesus promises to give us. We can run to the compassionate heart of Christ, knowing he offers comfort that heals.

**How can we learn from Jesus' empathy and compassion in this story when it comes to our own response to people in our life who have experienced loss?**

**How have you seen God be compassionate toward you in your own pain?**