**Raising of a Widow’s Son Meditation: Luke 7:11-17**

Beforehand

1. Luke 7:11-17

2. Pray with your passage

3. Sights: walking up a hill to Nain, procession, dead son

Sounds: mourning and weeping, cries of sorrow then astound

Touch: dusty, hot, sweaty

Smell: Death, spices that anoint the body

4. Emotions: sadness, compassion, startled at the body moving, joy and wonder

5. Pick 2 or so main points you want to stress: Close relationship of widow and son, power of Jesus over death

While Leading

1. Open in prayer: i.e. speak Lord your servants are listening, or Come Holy Spirit teach us how to pray

2. Read through the text: you may need to adapt some words to place them in the scene as a main character or bystander

3. While reading through the text, pause to set the scene

4. Close in prayer: i.e. Glory Be, Hail Mary

Processing

1. Ask older kids and adults to share

2. Ask directed questions at younger kids: Did you feel Jesus hug you? Did you tell him you loved him?

Example:

**11**Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. You walk up the steep hill to Nain. Maybe you are tired, hot, and dusty? Are you excited to reach your destination, or do you just want to rest? **12**As you approach 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. You see the large crowd of people mourning over this young man. You hear the wailing of the women. Others are crying quietly. You see the mother looking down, with silent tears streaming down her face. She is not much older than you. Or maybe she looks like your own mother. You watch as the procession continues and see the dead man. He looks like someone you know. Maybe your son, friend, or even yourself. You smell the spices he was anointed with along with a hint of the smell of death.  **13**When Jesus saw the mother, his heart went out to her and he said, “Don’t cry.” You wonder why Jesus says this. This woman’s son just died. What else can she do but cry. Maybe you are irritated that Jesus said this. Or maybe you wonder what He has planned. **14**Then Jesus went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, “Young man, I say to you, get up!” **15**The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. **16**They were all filled with awe and praised God. “A great prophet has appeared among us,” they said. “God has come to help his people.” **17**This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. How do you react to this? You saw this dead young man. You were 100% sure he was dead. Jesus spoke to him, and he slowly opened his eyes and sat up! Then he stood up and started walking! How is this possible? How would you react if you were raised from the dead? Or your son? Do you now believe Jesus has power over death? The death that comes to every single person ever in all of time?