



Session 7 Raising of Lazarus
week starting April 12, 2020

The raising of Lazarus is one of the most unique and pointed pictures of Jesus' compassion and power over death. Mary, Martha and Lazarus were close friends to Jesus, and the death of his friend shows us a picture of Jesus' humanity. But Jesus' understanding of death is very different from our own. While Jesus overturns the death of Lazarus by resuscitation it is only a signpost to his ultimate goal; resurrection life that death can never claim.

GETTING STARTED

Talk about a time when you experienced death. This can be the literal death of a loved one or the figurative death of a dream or some other kind of grief.

DISCUSSION

- Read John 11:1–6. Jesus delays in responding to the need made known to him by Mary and Martha. What are some times in your life you have felt a delayed response from God?
- We learn from the rest of the story that God's delays are not always denials. Why do you think Jesus delays in this story?
- Read John 11:7–16. Though it was dangerous, Jesus told the disciples that they would go to Bethany. Why would Jesus physically face danger even when he could heal Lazarus from far away?
- Describe a time when you had to face a challenging situation but chose not to turn away or take an easier path.
- Read John 11:17–27. Jewish superstition of the day believed that the soul would wait around the body for 3 days, hoping to return. What is significant about Jesus waiting four days to resuscitate his friend?
- What do you learn about Martha's faith from her interaction with Jesus? How might we want to be like her in our own interactions with God?
- Read John 11:28–45. Compare and contrast Mary and Martha's reactions to Jesus. What do you notice?
- Jesus weeps with Mary knowing full well what he was about to do. Why? What implications does this have for how Jesus interacts with us in our darkest times?

LIVE IT OUT

This week spend time each day praying for those in your life that are experiencing sickness, loss, or death.

Memorize John 11:25–26.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, please help me to remember your power over death in my life. Remind me that you are life itself. Show me how to minister to and pray for those around me who are experiencing death of all kinds. Amen.