

Lazarus: Back By Popular Demand

Pastor Jeff Bucknam | John 11:17–44

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria.*

Ice Breaker

What Disney princess/superhero would you be? Why?

Understanding the Text in Context

Since this is part 2 of a story, read John 11:1-16 together.

Compare and contrast Martha and Mary's reactions to Lazarus' death (John 11:17-32). For more context about Martha and Mary, read Luke 10:38-42.

The "glory of God" is mentioned at the beginning (v. 4) and the end of this story (v.40). How does that theme (1) help us understand Jesus' motivation and (2) give perspective on what others in the story experienced?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

Why does Jesus say He is the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26) instead of saying He can give resurrection and life?

Regarding death, how does the truth of Jesus differ from other religions' / worldviews' perspective about death?

In this text, we see Jesus both "deeply moved" ("indignant" in other translations) and the famous

shortest verse in the Bible, “Jesus wept” (Jn 11:35). How do those two emotions help us better understand Jesus? How do they reassure us that Jesus understands us?

Living Out the Truth

Why is death so difficult for us to deal with? How does this passage change the way you approach the Lord in grief?

With our victory being in the resurrection, how can we live boldly for the Lord? What are areas of your life that you need to filter through the lens of Christ’s victory over death?

Pray for one another as we live in a time that includes “How long, O Lord?” (Psalm 34:1-2) and looking forward to the time when “Death is swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54-55).

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

Talk about John 11:25-26 with your kids and explain the hope we have in Christ in the face of death. If there’s been any recent loss in the family, help your kids to process it with the story of Lazarus or store away for a rainy day:

- Death is overwhelming, and it’s ok to grieve!
- Jesus feels it too!
- Jesus overwhelms death.

Further Study

Some helpful articles:

- [The Fright of Death: How Conscience Makes Cowards of Us All](#)
- [6 Ways to Live Out the Resurrection in Your Everyday Life](#)
- [Where Is God’s Love When Life Goes Wrong?](#)
- [The Confusing and Perfect Love of Christ](#)
- [How Does Christianity Differ from Other Religions?](#)
- [10 Key Bible Verses on Death and Resurrection](#)

For a deeper dive, read the book: [*The Hope of the Resurrection: How Jesus's Defeat of Death Changes Everything*](#)

In your new John Study Journals, look ahead to next week’s sermon and text for John 12:1-19: “Two Sisters,” “Two Schemes,” and “Two Scenes.”