



THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of April 20, 2025

Read the Bible passage aloud in your group meeting. This is a worship discussion guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for your meeting, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

I Am the Resurrection & the Life

John 11:17-27 (emphasis added)

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

- Jesus knew that He would be glorified through Lazarus' illness ([John 11:4](#)). Why is it significant that Lazarus was dead for four days? (17)
- Martha hears that Jesus is coming and goes to meet Him, while Mary stays behind (20). Describe Martha's conversation with Jesus. (21-27)
- Do you tend to come to Jesus with what you really think, or what you think you should say? Martha's boldness trouble, encourage, or challenge you?
- What promise does Jesus make to Martha? (23)
- Jesus does not merely say He will bring about the resurrection, or simply be the cause of resurrection (both of which are true). He makes a stronger claim, "I am the resurrection and the life" (25). What does this mean?
- Jesus asks Martha if she believes His declaration (26). What does Martha believe? (27)
- Jesus will go on to raise Lazarus from the dead in the rest of John 11. How would Jesus later fulfill that He was the resurrection and the life in His own ministry? Read [John 20](#) for more insight.

"Through the Cross the faithful receive strength from weakness, glory from dishonor, life from death. The power of His death once confronted our death. In the words of Hosea the prophet: 'Death, I shall be your death; grave, I shall swallow you up.' By dying He submitted to the laws of the underworld; by rising again, He destroyed them. He did away

with the everlasting character of death so as to make death a thing of time, not of eternity." --Leo the Great, 5th Century

The older we get, the more we lose. Confronted with these grieving sisters and Jesus' own grief over death, He makes the astounding promise. Because He is the resurrection and the life, the life of a believer does not end at death, but continues eternally as an endless life of fellowship with God.

- Jesus knows He will raise Lazarus from the dead, yet He enters into Martha's grief over death. How?
- Share about a time you believed God in the midst of disappointment, grief, or confusion. What was that like?

Raising Lazarus from the dead was for the glory of God and resulted in the strengthening of Martha's faith. While we would much prefer to avoid suffering, it is often through suffering that God is glorified and increases faith.

- God works in our suffering for His glory. Does that confuse, strengthen, or challenge you? Why?

Death reigned. But Jesus, the resurrection and the life, conquered sin and death ([I Corinthians 15:54-57](#)). Until Christ comes a second time in victory, we still live with the effects of sin in our world, including physical death.

- How does Jesus' promise of victory over death comfort you?
- This Easter season, give thanks to Jesus for His promise of eternal life. Pray for those you love who do not yet believe in Jesus. Ask Jesus for grace to trust that His Spirit is at work in changing hearts ([Ezekiel 36:26-27](#); [II Peter 3:9](#)).
- As we come to the end of the I AM statements of Jesus sermon series, consider an aspect of who Jesus is and thank Him.
- Pray together in response to God's Word.
O Father God of the risen Christ, in Whose resurrection we find new life, send Your Spirit to dwell among us in this day of worship. O risen Christ, Son of the Father, may we hear Your word of peace today. O Spirit of the living God, teach us once more to live in the power of Christ's resurrection, in Whose name we pray. Amen

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