



Questions Jesus Asked

A Worship Discussion Guide for Individuals, Groups & Families for the week of October 19, 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.

John 11:1-27 Do You Believe This?

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

- Who are people and what is the setting of this story? What do we learn about them? (1-2)
- What does the sisters' message say? Does anything strike you about the message? (3)
- What reason does Jesus give for the purpose of Lazarus' illness? (4)
- In the book of John, "glory" is most commonly referring to God's revelation of Himself, His self-disclosure. How might the Father be glorified in Lazarus' illness? (4)
- Respond to this statement: "God's glory is a reason for what happens in your story".

⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰ But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹ After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³ Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus

told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- In verse 5, what does John remind the reader?
- In light of that, what decision does Jesus make? (6)
- How does it sit with you that Jesus stayed two days longer?
- How can a delay be a sign of love?
- Have you ever felt this tension in your own life – the tension between knowing you're loved and experiencing God's "delay"? What was that like?
- When Jesus decides it is time to go, what concerns the disciples seem concerned about? (7-8)
- How does Jesus respond to their concern? What do you think Jesus is trying to help the disciples understand? (9-10)
- What does Jesus intend to do when he gets to Judea? (11)
- The disciples are still confused! How do they interpret Jesus' statement? (12)
- To clear up their confusion, Jesus makes his intentions plain. What are they? (14-15)

¹⁷ Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰ So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus,

“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

- **Jews buried people the very day they died. The rabbis believed the soul lingered near the grave for three days, hoping to reenter the body, but as decomposition begins, it leaves. Why do you think John includes this detail about how long Lazarus has been dead? (17)**
- **When Martha hears that Jesus is coming, she leaves to go meet him but Mary stays behind. What does Martha say to Jesus when she reaches him? (21-22)**
- **Would you consider this a statement of faith? Why or why not?**
- **Jesus and Martha enter into a conversation. What comfort does Jesus offer Martha? What do you make of her response? (23)**
- **What does Jesus reveal to her about Himself? (25)**
- **What is Jesus calling Martha to believe about Himself? About death?**
- **After telling Martha the truth, what does Jesus ask her? (27)**
- **What does Martha’s response reveal about what she believes? (27)**
- **Through this conversation, how does Jesus join in Martha’s grief and experience of death?**
- **How do you need to trust God right in disappointment, grief, or confusion in this season of your life?**
- **Pray together in light of this week’s passage.**

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