



## Read the Gospel

**Read the Scripture and overview below before your Life Group meets.**

Scripture passage: John 11

Over the past weeks we have been making our way through the Gospel of John, observing and reviewing the signs Jesus performed in order to answer one overarching question, "Who is Jesus Christ?" Through our study, we have discovered that Jesus is God's joy for our disappointments, God's assurance for our doubts, His strength for our disabilities, and His satisfaction for our desires. We have also come to understand that Jesus is God's peace for our despair and His light for our darkness. This week we will study the story of Lazarus and hear the most significant of Jesus' declarations about Himself – "I am the resurrection and the life;" and in doing so, embrace with hope-filled expectation, that Jesus is God's life for our death.

## Pray for the Work of the Gospel

**Use the first few minutes of your lesson to lead your group in a focused prayer time.**

- **Praise** God for Jesus, the One who died in your place.
- **Repent** from any spiritual apathy that you may have regarding Jesus' death for you.
- **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you tell others about Jesus, *the Resurrection and the Life*.
- **Yield** to the Holy Spirit as He continues to transform you into the likeness of Christ.

## Engage in the Gospel

**Use these questions to engage in an informative and impactful discussion with your Life Group.**

- **Read John 11:1-16.** Describe the kind of relationship Jesus had with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha. (See also Luke 10:38-42)
- Because of the close relationship between Jesus and this family, there was a sense of love and security. Do you have this kind of love and security in your relationship with Jesus? Do others see it? What are the signs of such a relationship?
- What is surprising about Jesus' response to the news of Lazarus' illness?
- Jesus gives the purpose of the illness in verse 4. What does He say? Jesus gives an almost identical response in John 9:3 regarding the man born blind. What does He say in this instance?
- Jesus always points others to the glory of His Father. **Read John 17:1-6.** When did Jesus pray this prayer, and what was His main purpose while on earth?
- **Read John 5:16, Philippians 1:21 & 3:7-11.** What should our main purpose and response always be?



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- How does bringing God glory give us freedom and purpose? What are some ways you bring glory to God in your daily life? Are you living for Christ or self? What is God trying to put to death in your life? (See Colossians 3:5-11)
- In John 11:14, Jesus tells the disciples that Lazarus has died. Why was Jesus glad that He was not in Bethany with Lazarus when he died?
- There is great wisdom to be learned in the midst of the struggles of life. Read the following verses and discuss what you learn about God and the struggles we face.
  - Isaiah 40:31
  - Isaiah 41:10
  - Isaiah 55:8-9
  - Matthew 11:28-20
  - John 16:33
  - 1 Corinthians 10:13
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
  - Philippians 4:13
  - James 1:2-4
- **Read John 11:17-37.** Note the responses of Mary and Martha when they saw Jesus— “If only you had been here.” How often do you go to Jesus with your “if only”? When you have this response, what are you failing to factor in about Jesus? Martha qualifies her “if only” with a “but even now.” How can you turn your “if only” into a “but even now” today?
- In a crisis, do you come to God with your own agenda or do you come open to His sovereign leading and purpose?
- Discuss the significance of Martha and Jesus’s exchange in verses 21-27. Have you made this declaration about Jesus and believed in Him to be Lord of your life? Can you articulate what “believing in Jesus” means? Do you need to share this “Good News” with someone this week?
- **Read John 11:38-44.** How is God’s supremacy and power displayed through Jesus in these verses? How does Martha’s response display a lack of trust and belief when Jesus instructs them to take the stone away?
- God often uses the worst moments in our lives to demonstrate His power and glory. What do you learn about God from the story of Lazarus? Does someone you know need to hear about the power of Jesus to bring life and freedom? Will you tell them?

## Live the Gospel

**These questions are meant to encourage you to apply spiritual truth and live on mission for Jesus. It is your Life Group leader’s responsibility to challenge you and hold you accountable to taking steps of growth and faith. Take these questions to heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to prompt you to grow in your role as a disciple and ultimately a disciple-maker.**

- What, specifically, will you do this week to grow in your role as a disciple and a disciple-maker?

### **Joshua Code memory verse:**

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. – 2 Corinthians 5:20*



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