



## **INTRODUCTION**

Why didn't God do something? Sometimes, despite our most fervent prayers, God doesn't show up the way we want him to. The cancer isn't cured. The company fails. The foreclosure goes through. What should we look for when it feels like God forgot to show up?

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Talk about a time when you were late arriving where you were expected.
2. Read **John 11:11–14**. React to the idea that Jesus allowed Lazarus to die so that his disciples could see God's glory and believe.
3. Has a painful circumstance ever caused you to question God's love for you? Explain.
4. How might the idea that God leverages your pain for his glory give you hope during a difficult circumstance?
5. Read **John 11:35**. How does knowing that God isn't too big or too distant to understand your pain change your perspective on suffering?

## **MOVING FORWARD**

When God is late in addressing your problems or answering your prayers, it can be difficult to know how to continue on in faith. But the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead offers a picture of hope in the midst of a hopeless situation. If you continue to trust God through your pain, he will eventually show you his glory.

## **CHANGING YOUR MIND**

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25–26*