

13

JOHN 11:1-6,14-17,21-33,39-46

JESUS IS LIFE

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Often we don't understand God. We might wonder, "Why does He allow terrible things to happen?" Other times, we may feel He has no power over our horrible circumstances or that He has no compassion for us when we are going through deep pain. John 11 takes all of these very normal human concerns and shows us reasons that we can have hope. Jesus made a few interesting moves. Rather than rushing to His dying friend's side to offer healing, Jesus allowed his friend to die. And rather than dismissing the doubt and pain of the dead man's sisters, Jesus invited them to believe more deeply and stepped into their pain. Every detail was arranged so that witnesses would have all they need to become fully convinced that Jesus doesn't just offer life—He *is* Life.



CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus doesn't just offer life—He *is* Life.



EXPLORE

scripture

JOHN 11:1-6,14-17,21-33,39-46

JOHN 11:1-6,14-17

1 Now a man was sick, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. 3 So the sisters sent a message to him: "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness will not end in death but is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister,

and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that he was sick, he stayed two more days in the place where he was. . . . 14 So Jesus then told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. 15 I'm glad for you that I wasn't there so that you may believe. But let's go to him." 16 Then Thomas (called "Twin") said to his fellow disciples, "Let's go too so that we may die with him." 17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

JOHN 11:21-33

21 Then Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. 22 Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." 23 "Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her. 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you

believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who comes into the world." . . . 32 As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died!" 33 When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled.

JOHN 11:39-46

39 "Remove the stone," Jesus said. Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, there is already a stench because he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. 42 I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so

that they may believe you sent me." 43 After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and let him go." 45 Therefore, many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what he did believed in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE JOHN 11:25

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

JOHN 11:1-16

DWELL



Why did Jesus wait to go to Lazarus?



How do Jesus's actions challenge you to trust Him more?

On the surface, it's confusing that Jesus waited to go to Lazarus—it doesn't seem very loving! Things get even more complicated when we realize that it was dangerous for Jesus to go near Jerusalem—then it might seem like Jesus was more concerned about His life than Lazarus's. But as the narrative unfolds, we realize that though we may not understand what Jesus is doing, we can trust His character. He is always good, and He is always working for God's glory.

MEMORIZE

Write out John 11:25 on a piece of paper, "taking a picture" of it with your eyes. Then, read the verse aloud five times. Finally, cover it up with your hand and try to say it without looking. Do this one more time before you go to bed tonight.

PRAY

Tell God about something that's happening in your life that doesn't make sense to you. Ask Him to help you trust Him more.

day 2

JOHN 11:17-27

DWELL

↓ List some things Martha believed about Jesus and some things she struggled to believe. What does this tell us about her?

↑ Why do you think Jesus responded to her the way He did?

Martha was Jesus's beloved friend. One of the ways He cared for her was by showing her places where she didn't believe in Him and inviting her to believe more deeply. Sometimes we find ourselves believing that God is small—and it's welcome news when a friend reminds us that God is much bigger and more powerful than we could ever imagine.

MEMORIZE

Write down the first letter of each word of John 11:25 on a note card. At least five times today, see if you can say the verse just by looking at the letters.

PRAY

Ask God to show you areas where you believe He is small or powerless. Praise Him for the big power He exhibits in John 11!

day 3

JOHN 11:28-37

DWELL

John 11 is famous for Lazarus's resurrection—but it is also famous because it reveals Jesus's emotion. Sometimes we can slip into thinking that God is removed from our pain and from our feelings, or we can think of Jesus as not truly human. But John 11 reveals that God steps into our pain and that Jesus Himself knows what it is like to grieve. Jesus's ministry to His friends in John 11 wasn't merely physical healing—He also offered emotional and spiritual support.

↓ Do you identify more with Martha or Mary here? Why?

↔ How can Jesus's ministry to Martha and Mary inform how you comfort friends who are grieving?

MEMORIZE

Connect your memorization efforts to a common task, like brushing your teeth, washing your hair, or driving to school. As you complete that task each day, try to say John 11:25 from memory twice.

PRAY

Thank God for drawing close to those who are suffering. Share with Him ways that you or loved ones are suffering.

day 4

JOHN 11:38-44

DWELL

Some people speculate that Jesus had to specifically use Lazarus's name when He told him to come out—otherwise, *all* the bodies would step out of their graves! This is a fascinating thought because it reminds us of God's power over death. It also reminds us that one day, Jesus will return, and at His call, the bodies of all His followers will be resurrected. We will be fully with Him, body and soul! (This is what Martha referenced back in verse 24.)

→ How does following Jesus change the way you think about grief? How can this passage help you grieve with hope?

↶ How can this passage help you know how to pray for friends who are grieving?

MEMORIZE

Have a friend or family member set a daily alarm. When the alarm goes off each day, ask them to reach out to you and ask you to recite as much of John 11:25 from memory as you can.

PRAY

Praise God for His power over death! Ask Him to remind you of this passage the next time you are walking through loss.

day 5

JOHN 11:45-57

DWELL

Verse 8 reminded us that the tension between Jesus and the religious leaders was at a boiling point. At the last interaction we read about, they were ready to arrest or stone Him (see 10:31,39)! So, when some of the witnesses of Lazarus's death slipped away to tell the Pharisees, it's easy to see that they would not enjoy this news. The high priest offered a haunting prophecy—that would be better for one man to die than the whole nation.

← Even though Caiaphas didn't realize it, how did his words reveal God's plan?

↓ Why do you think these men didn't believe in Jesus, even after He resurrected a dead man?

MEMORIZE

Write out John 11:25 somewhere creative—maybe use a dry erase marker on your bathroom mirror or chalk on the driveway. You could even write it in the dust on the back windshield of a friend's dirty car.

PRAY

Thank God for His sacrificial heart for His people. Praise Him for the selfless way He loves!

