

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION GOAL



To recognize God's purpose, passion and power at work in our lives today as He pursues our response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

ICE BREAKER



Share stories amongst your group about times you've had to wait for God to move in your life. Encourage stories that have already been resolved with positive outcomes while trying to steer away from stories of currently waiting on God to "show up" in someone's life. We'll get there later in the discussion.

TEXT



Have a member of your group read the passages aloud.

John 11:1-47

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." **5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when he heard that Lazarus[\[a\]](#) was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

(turn to John 11 in an ESV bible to continue reading verses 7-47)

MESSAGE OUTLINE



This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.

Big Idea: You can't escape responding to Jesus

Key Question: What makes it impossible to escape responding to Jesus?

1. His purpose is intentional (vv. 1-16)
2. His passion is invitational (vv. 17-37)
3. His power is irrefutable (vv. 38-47)

DISCUSSION



- Chapter 11 contains the final of the 7 “signs” of Jesus in John’s Gospel. In what ways have the signs been building upon one another and/or collectively displaying Jesus’ messianic identity?
- It may seem odd that Jesus waited so long to respond to his friend’s illness. What are some things we can learn about the purposes of God from Jesus’ delay in vv.1-16?
- In vv.17-37 Jesus calls Himself “the resurrection and the life,” inviting Martha (and His hearers) to respond with their beliefs about salvation and eternal life. In times in your life where you are experiencing feelings of doubt, pain, loss, or desperation, how do you respond to Jesus’ “I am” claim?
- In v.43 Jesus cries with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” He’s calling our names out of death, and into life as well. Have you responded to what Jesus has done for you? If so, share what that was like? If not, what’s holding you back?
- In John 11, Jesus displays His divine authority over death through resurrecting Lazarus from the dead, a “sign” that definitely requires a response to Jesus’ deity claims. What does this “sign” mean to you?

LIFE APPLICATION



Do you ever struggle with the delays of God or lack of response in your life? In Psalm 27:13-14, David declares “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!” How can you apply what you’ve just discussed from John 11 and Psalm 27 to the situations you are facing in your life or the lives of those close to you today?

jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.

PRAYER REQUESTS


