

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Is there an area of your life where you feel like Jesus has not responded to your requests and things are going from bad to worse? Taking the lessons from this story, what can you do this week as a better response to this situation?
- Is there any area of your life that needs the resurrection power of Jesus? What can you do this week to appropriate that power?
- Mary built relationships with people in a way that caused them to rally to her upon her brother's death, giving them a chance to experience the resurrection power of Jesus. How can you become more of a 'Mary' in the community you live, work, and play in?

PRAYER

- Where are the areas where you feel like God has let you down? Take those to the Lord in prayer asking God to help you trust him and come through on your behalf. Ask God to use these areas to strengthen your faith.
- Are there any areas of your life that you feel are dead or damaged? Dreams, relationships, emotions. Ask God to help you believe him to restore life to those areas.
- Do you know any other people who are spiritually dead, struggling with broken dreams, damaged relationships, or sick or injured bodies? Lift them up in prayer, asking God to resurrect them.
- Ask God to help you believe that he is the resurrection and the life and that your eternity in heaven is secure through Jesus.

NOTES



Week 3: Lazarus

CONNECT

- What is the closest you have ever been to death? Yours or someone else's.

WORD

John 11:1-8 (NIV)

¹Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." ⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." ⁸"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

John 11:14-18 (NIV)

¹⁴So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Then

Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

¹⁷On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

John 11:38-45 (NIV)

³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹"Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." ⁴⁵Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him."

THOUGHT

Everyone who has ever lived (with the exception of Enoch and Elijah) has died. The question is not whether or not we will face death and difficulty in life, but how we respond to them. Jesus teaches us some important lessons in the remarkable story of the resurrection of Lazarus.

1. Jesus' disciples were afraid to return to Judea where the Jews had just tried to stone him. In fact, some of them expected that they would be killed there. (vs.8,16) Have you ever felt like God led you to go into a bad situation? How did it affect your relationship with God?

2. How do you think Mary & Martha felt when Jesus arrived?

☐ despondent

☐ consoled

☐ angry

☐ hopeful

☐ let down

☐ other _____

3. Why did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?

☐ to see his friend again

☐ to comfort Mary and Martha

☐ to prove that he really was the Son of God

☐ to glorify his Father

☐ Other _____

4. Do you feel like this whole episode stretched and strengthened Mary & Martha's faith?

5. Verse 45 tells us that many of the Jews who came because of Mary, left believing in Jesus. In what ways could you be more like Mary, attracting people to you, but turning them to Jesus?

John 11:25-26 (NIV)

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

6. How would you respond to Jesus' question to Martha?

7. In what ways does this verse give you hope for the future?
