

## JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

“WHO IS JESUS?” FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE - Week 31, March 11

### JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

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“Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one 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

**O**ne day Jesus’s dear friend Lazarus became sick. Lazarus’s sisters, Mary and Martha, knew Jesus had the power to heal, so they sent for him.

Jesus got the message, but he didn’t run immediately to Bethany or speak a quick word to heal Lazarus. Instead, Jesus stayed where he was for two whole days. Why did he do this? Didn’t he love them?

Well, actually it was *because* he loved them that he didn’t come right away.<sup>7</sup> He had something important

to tell them and show them. 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” (John 11:4).

When Jesus was finally ready to go, the disciples tried to stop him. Bethany was very close to Jerusalem, where the people had just tried to stone him. He would be walking into a death trap! But Jesus had a plan to teach them much about life, death, and himself, so he insisted, and plainly told them what he already knew: Lazarus was dead.



He said to them, “For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him” (11:15).

Oh, how confusing life with Jesus must have been. First, he said the sickness wouldn’t end in death, and now he’s saying Lazarus is dead? And he wants to go? Even though Lazarus is already dead and Jesus might get himself killed? Being a disciple of Jesus was not an easy job. Thomas, bless his brave heart, said, “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (11:16).

So they went. Martha ran to meet them, saying, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died” (11:21).

Jesus replied, “Your brother will rise again” (11:23).

Martha believed in the resurrection on the last day, but she didn’t understand what Jesus was about to do. Then Jesus revealed to her something really important and amazing, a clue as to what was about to happen, but also something really important for all of us. Listen carefully.

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” (11:25–26).

Martha answered, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah” (11:27).

benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” (11:41–43).

Lazarus came out, wrapped in his grave clothes. He was alive!

Jesus allowed Lazarus to die and then raised him

Then Mary came and fell at Jesus’s feet, crying, “Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died” (11:32).

Jesus saw her and the mourners weeping, and became deeply moved and troubled. Maybe it was the emotion of the crowd and the helplessness of Mary and Martha. Maybe he was upset that they doubted his love for them by not coming right away, but oh, how he loved them! Or maybe it was just the ugliness of sin, death, and the thought of his own death coming so soon. So many tears were coming in the days ahead.

“Where have you laid him?” Jesus asked. And he wept.

“See how he loved him!” the people said (11:36). But others questioned him, saying, “Could he not have kept this man from dying?”

They had reached the tomb, a cave with a stone covering the entrance. “Take away the stone,” Jesus said (11:39).

Martha wasn’t so sure that was a good idea. It had been four days, and it was going to stink!

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you will see the glory of God?” (11:40).

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the

because he loves us and wants us to believe. He is the Resurrection and the Life! The resurrection of Lazarus is a preview of our own resurrection. Just as Jesus told Martha, if we believe in him, we will live even though we die. Like Lazarus, we too will be resurrected.

The question Jesus asked Martha is for us as well—Do you believe this?



## REFLECT

1. Who does Jesus say he is in this story?
2. It was a common belief in the time of Jesus that a person’s soul hovered near the body for three days before departing. How many days was Lazarus dead, and what does this tell us? See John 11:39.
3. We learn in verses 33 and 38 that Jesus was deeply moved in spirit and troubled, and in verse 35 that Jesus wept. What emotions do you think Jesus was experiencing and why? Discuss this as a family.