



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 6: Feb 6th-12th

Death is a topic we'd rather avoid. Who wants to think about something that makes us feel vulnerable or insecure?! Death can cause despair, but it just happens to also be the place of greatest hope for those who follow Jesus. Into the face of death, Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and life." He doesn't only declare it, though, He also demonstrates it outside the tomb of a man named Lazarus.

Main Texts: John 11:1-44; see also 1 Corinthians 15

CONNECT

1. Is *death* a topic you'd rather avoid or is it easy for you to talk about? Why do you think that is?
2. What did you find most significant in this week's sermon? What questions did it leave in your mind?

LEARN

3. Jesus doesn't seem to be in a hurry to get to Bethany once He hears that Lazarus is sick (see v. 6). Jesus' delay didn't cause Lazarus to die, but what does Jesus say is the purpose behind Lazarus' death in the first 16 verses?
4. In v. 25, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life." What do you think Jesus means when He uses the term "resurrection" and "life"? How are these two ideas similar and how are they distinct?
5. Jesus is "deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled" in verse 33, but this phrase could also be understood as "*outraged* in spirit and greatly troubled." From the sermon or from the text, what seems to make Jesus angry?
6. What difference does it make that Jesus was able to raise Lazarus from the dead after He claimed to be "the resurrection and life"?

APPLY

7. Martha and Mary both state, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Maybe you can relate? When have you thought, "Lord, if you had been here, _____" (something tragic would not have happened)? Share how this passage gives you hope in or a different perspective on the situation, if it does.

8. If you believe in Jesus, eternal life has already begun (refer back to verse 26)! Think about that for a minute. Is there any way your perspective or attitudes on your life should change in light of this present reality?

9. Jesus' act of raising Lazarus brought Jesus closer to His own death and resurrection (refer to verses 45-53). How does Jesus' own resurrection give us the ultimate confidence in the face of death? Refer to 1 Corinthians 15 if you have time.

GOING DEEPER (a.k.a., Extra Credit!)

The Bible's most in-depth reflection on Jesus' resurrection is 1 Corinthians 15. Take time to slowly read through the chapter. (As a disclaimer, there are some potentially confusing verses, especially verses 29-34. We recommend consulting a good study Bible for help on these verses.)

Think through these questions as you read:

- What stands out as most significant to you?
- What from this chapter gives you hope?
- What from this chapter gives you confidence in the truth of the claims being made?

Finally, we know that memorizing can be hard, but we also think it's worth the effort with passages like 1 Corinthians 15:3-7. Most scholars—both believers and skeptics alike—believe that this is a very early creed that Paul was introduced to shortly after his conversion on the Damascus road. In other words, it was likely formed soon after Jesus' resurrection and passed along (i.e., memorized) among the communities of believers.