



Week 17
Discussion Questions

Text: John 11:1-57

Icebreaker: Where have you recently noticed God's presence most clearly in your everyday life?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. The account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is a well-known Biblical story to most people, both within and outside of Christian circles. Upon reading the story again, was there anything new, surprising, or different than how you remembered it?
3. A pattern found throughout the book of John is seen once again in this passage: Jesus waits or delays acting in the way expected of Him. In John 2, Mary asks Jesus to help with the wine dilemma, and he initially declines, only to eventually solve the problem. In John 6, Jesus delays arriving with the disciples in Capernaum and in John 7, Jesus says He will not go to Judea, but eventually makes His way there for the Feast of Booths. What is Jesus' purpose in the waiting and delay in each of these stories, including John 11?
4. Mary and Martha separately say the same thing to Jesus about Lazarus. How does He respond to each of them and what significance does His differing answers to each of them tell us about His character?
5. Have you ever found yourself asking, "If God...loved me (cared for me, was able to..., is good) he would...." Fill in the blank? What does this statement assume about God's character and how does Jesus' responses to Mary and Martha help us reframe our impulse to pose such a statement?
6. What causes Jesus to weep in this story?

7. Lazarus being raised from life to death signals to us a theme of "New Life" in Christ. Reflect together on other stories in Scripture that come to mind when you think of "New Life" and how they relate and give insight to the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead. (Adam—Genesis 2:7; Jonah 2:1-10; Daniel 3:19-28; Daniel 6:19-23; Jairus' daughter—Mark 5:35-42; widow of Nain's son—Luke 7:11-16).
8. The power Jesus has over death is something that has great implications for how we view life. What does it mean to live as though we will never die? What does a life of resurrection hope look like, even in the face of tragedy?
9. When we are in the midst of suffering, it is difficult to feel God's presence or see how God's glory might be produced through it. If you can, share a time in your life when you were unsure of the future or struggled to see God's presence in a situation, but now looking back you can clearly see His hand at work and His Glory revealed in you or in it.
10. John 2-11 is a compilation of "signs" that point to one truth: Jesus is God, the long awaited Messiah, the Christ. What keeps people from recognizing these signs as truth and believing in Jesus? How do you relate to them?
11. What sticks out to you about those who recognize Jesus as the Christ and how that is demonstrated in their actions?
12. What difference does belief in Jesus make in your everyday life?