



John 11 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Have someone read John 11:1-6. How would you describe Jesus' attitude in this passage?
- Ben asked the question: where is Jesus' urgency? Why does He purposefully wait while Lazarus is getting ill?
 - What do you think this says about Jesus? How do we square this delay with the fact that "God is love"?
 - Why are delays hard to cope with? What makes them so painful?
 - Ben mentioned that God's delays are not signs of God's absence. How do we endure and persevere in trust in seasons of delay? How can we seek God's presence when it feels like He's absent?
- When have you felt that God delayed in your life? How did that delay affect your relationship with God? Have you seen God end the delay yet?
- Have someone read John 11:7-16. What does Jesus seem to be saying here? What is His reasoning for wanting to return to Judea?
- Ben said that it seems clear here that Jesus cares more about our faith than anything else, including healing Lazarus so that he would not die. How does Jesus' delay in this passage demonstrate His focus on faith?
 - Why does Jesus care about our faith so much? Why is that what He so often chooses to enrich and focus on?

- How does this help us to think about delays and disappointments we experience in our lives?
- How do we allow our faith to grow in seasons of suffering and struggle? How do we prevent our hearts from growing bitter and angry? And how do we allow our faith to grow while also leaving space for genuine grief and honesty?
- Have someone read John 11:17-27. How would you summarize this exchange between Jesus, Martha, and Mary? What strikes you as important?
 - What does Martha seem to believe about the resurrection?
 - What is Jesus saying, in contrast to what Martha believes?
 - How do we square the fact that Jesus has already defeated death with the reality that all people still die?
 - Ben taught that this is an example of the “already but not yet” nature of Jesus’ redemption. When thinking about the gospel and the victory that Jesus has wrought, what is already true of us, and what is not yet true?
 - Ben also taught that however much this doctrine is true, ultimately we are not asked to trust a cold doctrine, but a living person. Why is this distinction important, and how does it help us think about death?
- Have another person in the group read John 11:27-37. How is Mary’s response different than Martha’s? What does this tell us about the two sisters? What does this tell us about grief?
 - What does Jesus do in response to the weeping of Mary and her friends?
 - Why do you think Jesus wept? Why would He weep if He knew that He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead?
 - Ben noted that this is one of the most potent examples in Scripture of God’s personal love for us. What is personal love?

What distinguishes it from impersonable love? How do Jesus' tears display His personal love in this passage?

- How do Jesus' tears make you think about suffering and death? What makes this passage comforting?
- How could this passage help us to explain God's personal love to unbelievers? Do you think this passage would surprise those who don't know the Lord?
- Finally, have someone read John 11:38-44. What happens in this section?
 - If Jesus' demeanor is characterized by grief in the previous section, what emotion(s) characterizes Him in this passage?
 - Ben showed that the phrase, "deeply moved," denotes strong emotion akin to the anger of a charging bull. What made Jesus so angry here?
 - What does the resurrection of Lazarus teach us about death? None of us, probably, will immediately be raised from the dead right after we die, so why do you think John includes this story in his gospel?
 - Similarly, what does this passage teach us about our resurrection?