



Sermon Discussion Questions

GIFT: Jesus Through John

John 11: Resurrection and the Life

INTRODUCE IT

In this series, we are exploring the concept of God's greatest gift to us. When He came to earth as Jesus Christ and lived among us, God made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might know Him. But what does He want us to know about who He is and what life with Jesus offers us? By looking at different events in the Gospel of John, we seek to learn more about the nature of God's love for us and the incredible Gift we have been given.

Think back to the death of a family member or close friend. What were your thoughts about God as you mourned for your loved one? Did you doubt or question God during that time?

What feelings do you have when you think about death? What are some mental images that come to mind when you hear of someone dying?

STUDY THE PASSAGE

Read John 11:1-46

What do you come to know from this story about Jesus' relationship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus?

Jesus loves Lazarus, but he waits two days longer after he hears of his illness before heading to Judea. How do you reconcile his actions with how he feels about his friend?

Compare verse 11:4 with John 9:3 from last week's scripture. Is this a frequent truth about affliction, or is this a principle unique to Jesus' ministry? Give reasons for your view.

In verses 17-27, what elements of faith and doubt do you see in Martha's responses to Jesus?

In verses 25-26, Jesus tells Martha, "he who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die." This is the gift that Jesus offers us. What kind of life and death is Jesus referring to in each case?

What does this story show us about receiving the gift? How do we receive the gift of life?

The people who saw the miracle responded in two totally different ways. What does this tell us about the value of miracles alone for bringing us to faith in Jesus?

USE IT

In what ways will this story change the way you respond to a personal difficulty or a time when you feel God is not responding?

How will this help you to pray for and support friends who are going through a difficult time?

Focus on a specific incident that you or a friend is going through where you need to trust God to work it out. Write it down on a card or piece of paper. If you feel comfortable doing so, share it with another person in your group and ask them to pray along with you. Keep a record of how God responds and works in this situation.