



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

John 11:1-37

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **7** Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ... **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, **15** and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ...?

17 Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about three kilometers off, ...? **20** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. [\[d\]](#) Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

28 When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him.? **32**

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. **34** And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus wept. **36** So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" **37** But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

Sermon Summary:

John chapter 11 is the conclusion to the first 10 chapters of this gospel. The climax is the resurrection of Lazarus. The way the narrative unfolds reveals to us a number of characteristics of Jesus and also raises a number of questions. Firstly, we see that Jesus has close friends that he loves in the household in Bethany. The questions that people may ask are: why did Jesus delay his coming to Bethany and why the very different responses to Martha and Mary? To Martha he shows his divine nature in being resurrection and life. To Mary he shows his humanity. We need both aspects of Jesus. This section is both comforting and life-giving.

Discussion:

1. Jesus had a special relationship with the household of Mary, Marth and Lazarus. Describe this relationship and consider why he had this relationship.
2. What does the friendship that Jesus had with this household indicate to us about having special friends? How can we develop healthy friendships?
3. What may be the reasons for Jesus' delay in going to Bethany?
4. Jesus told Martha "I am the resurrection and the life." What does this indicate?
5. What is the truth and encouragement we can get from John 11:25-26?
6. Why did Jesus weep? What does this indicate to us about Jesus regarding our sufferings?
7. How should we relate to people who are suffering from a loss?

End with Prayer