

“Closer Walk” Bible Study

The Gospel Of John Chapter 11:1-44

Purpose: To share lives around the Scripture and through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit make happy and unexpected discoveries that change our lives and bring us closer in our walk with Jesus.

Getting us started

1. Describe the sickest you have ever been.
2. If you could raise one person from the dead, who would it be? Why?

Getting us into Scripture

3. How would you describe Jesus' relationship with this family (vv. 1-5)? Why does Jesus deliberately delay (v. 6)?
4. Given the disciples' objection (v. 8), what do you think Jesus means by his parable (vv. 9-10)?
5. Why is Jesus returning to Lazarus at this time (vv. 11-15)? What do the disciples fear instead (vv. 8, 16)?
6. How long had Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrived? How would you feel if you were Martha or Mary and you heard that Jesus had finally come?
7. What do you learn about Martha from the way she talks with Jesus in verses 21-27? How does Jesus stretch her faith by his claim in verse 25? How does this relate to his claim in 10:9?
8. What does Martha's statement (v. 27) sound like to you: (a) Stab in the dark? (b) Hope against hope? (c) Intellectual assent? (d) Active commitment? Why do you think so?
9. How is Mary's greeting (v. 32) like and unlike Martha's? Since Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus (11:11), how do you account for his weeping (vv. 33-35)?
10. What lies behind the comments of the mourners in verses 36-37?
11. How does Martha's objection in verse 39 contrast with her confidence in verse 22?

Getting Scripture into us

12. Have you ever felt like God was not listening when you prayed? How did you deal with this? How does the way in which Jesus postponed his response to the sisters' request help you in understanding your own prayer life?
13. Have you, like Thomas (v.16), ever felt Jesus was calling you to do something very risky? What happened?
14. When have you been faced with a tough situation that ended up stretching your faith? What would have been different for you if that struggle had simply been avoided?
15. Have you ever attended a funeral where there was no sense of eternal life, as in verses 25-26? How did you go away from that experience? What difference does this hope make for you?
16. How does Jesus' response to Lazarus' death and Mary's weeping (v. 35) help you to trust him more?
17. On a scale of 1 (none) to 10 (completely) how confident are you that you will live eternally? What evidence is there supporting your level of confidence? How would you live your life differently if you were more confident?
18. What are some "old grave clothes" that still must be shed for you to feel truly free in Christ?
19. How have you tried to keep Jesus in line with your religious traditions?