

## **Week 7: John 11:1-44**

### **Key Theme: Jesus is The Resurrection and the Life**

#### **SEE my Life: Life Map & Fasting Reflection Icebreaker (15 mins)**

Share briefly how your time of fasting and reflection with your life map and Psalm 23 went. What is God reminding you of or teaching you through this experience?

**Option:** Have you or someone you know ever experienced something you would genuinely call a “miracle”? Why would you call it a “miracle”? Do you tend to believe or doubt miracle stories?

#### **SEE Jesus: John 11:1-44 (30 mins)**

This passage tells the story of Jesus’ healing of his close friend Lazarus; at the same time it includes Jesus’ remarkable statement: “I am the resurrection and the life.” Keep both the details of the story and the theological claims in mind as you process the questions. After you read the text together, I would continue to encourage you to pair up for some of these questions to get everyone engaged.

1. What stands out to you from the text? What word or phrase seems significant to you? What questions do you have about the text?
2. Why do you think Jesus waits two days before traveling to Judea to heal Lazarus?
3. Take a closer look at Jesus’ interaction with Martha in verses 20-27. What new truth does Jesus bring to her? What is her response?
4. What emotions does Jesus express during the story? Why do you think he feels the way he does?
5. Jesus clearly has a purpose, not just in what he does, but in how he does it. What is he trying to teach his audience through this miracle?
6. As you take a closer look at Jesus through this story, what aspects of his character draw you to him?

#### **SEE my Life: The Resurrection and the Life (30 mins)**

As you reflect on Jesus’ raising of Lazarus and what he was teaching his audience through this miracle, think about Jesus’ work in your own life. Some of the squares on your life map might help you here as you process the following questions. Consider breaking into smaller and/or same gender groupings for these questions. Don’t feel pressured to “cover” all three sets of questions. You might start with the set that you think would resonate with your group the most.

1. Jesus waited for two days before traveling to Judea and did not raise Lazarus until he had been dead for four days. Jesus had a clear purpose in his delay—ultimately to demonstrate his love through an unmistakable miracle. Describe a time in your life when God expressed his love for you through a delayed response. How did you feel during the process? What did you learn through the process?
2. Jesus demonstrates an emotional response, not just to his friend Lazarus’ death, but also to the pain and suffering that death itself brings. At the same time, Jesus provides ultimate hope through his resurrection and the promise of

our resurrection. Think of a time when somebody you know died. Maybe it was a grandparent who had lived a full life or a close friend who died suddenly at a young age. Whatever the case, how did you process that event? How did you feel? What did you think?

3. Following Jesus requires a belief that he is truly the Son of God. His literal resurrection provides the most important support for that claim. How would you describe your own thoughts and feelings about the resurrection?

**SEE the practices of Jesus: Fasting (15 mins to explain and close in prayer)**

Continue with your practice of fasting this week. Skip at least one meal and purposefully spend 30-60 minutes reading and reflecting on 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Paul's meditation on the mystery and victory of the resurrection.

- Spend some time thinking about the "sting of death," which is ultimately caused by our sin. Take some time to remember some of your own sins and the pain that they have caused.
- Personalize Paul's prayer in 1 Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God, who gives me the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ."
- Ask God to help you be "steadfast, immovable, and abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (15:58). Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to your next right step.

Close in prayer with a focus on your one person you have been praying for.