



**SERIES: WAYPOINTS, WEEK 7**

**MESSAGE TITLE: THE RESURRECTION OF FAITH**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**

**DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020**

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

## BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *John 11:1-45*

John chapter 11 contains another of Jesus' miracles. Jesus is told that his friend Lazarus is sick. We're told that Jesus loves Lazarus very much. However, instead of immediately going to him and healing him or healing him from afar (which he's done before), Jesus stays where he is two days. Then he decides to go to him. He knows that Lazarus is already dead, but he tells his disciples that he is going to do something that will strengthen their faith. The disciples are confused but go with him.

When Jesus reaches Lazarus' hometown he asks to be taken to Lazarus' grave. Jesus weeps there, sitting in the grief of the people and showing his care for his friend. Then he does something remarkable. He raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus uses this miracle to demonstrate that sometimes God uses suffering and hardships to strengthen our faith. God is good. God cares for us. God is powerful but will use suffering in our lives to help us to believe in him. God gives purpose to our sufferings.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably*

## LEAN IN

***These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What is the hardest thing for you about being quarantined?
2. What is one thing you've enjoyed about the last couple of weeks?
3. Do you have a person in your life that you love like family, even though they're not technically related to you? Who is it and how did you meet?
4. What is one thing you're looking forward to this next week? What's one thing you're dreading about this next week?

## LOOK DOWN

***These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What do you learn from the text about Jesus' relationship with Mary, Martha, and Lazarus? How did Jesus feel about this family?
2. When Jesus is told that Lazarus is sick, what is his response?
3. Where does Martha encounter Jesus? What does she say to him? How

**CONTINUED:**

- would you describe their conversation? How are Jesus' conversations with Mary and Martha different and how are they similar?
4. What is Jesus' first reaction when he goes to Lazarus' tomb? What does he do there? What reason does Jesus give for what he does?
  5. What are the different reactions that people have to Lazarus' resurrection?

**LOOK OUT**

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What circumstances in our world cause people to doubt God's goodness and love for humanity?
2. What are some difficult things that you have seen people you know walk through? Did these circumstances cause people to have faith in God or walk away from the faith? Why do think they reacted the way they did?
3. What might it look like to have an honest encounter like Martha did in today's world? How have you seen people be honest with their struggles? How have you seen them hide them or try to over-spiritualize them?
4. How have you seen God show his care for people (either in the lives of people you know or in history/situations you know of)?
5. Who in your life have you seen lean into God during a difficult time? How did God provide for this person?

**LOOK IN**

***These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What circumstances (either currently or in the past) have caused you to doubt God's goodness?
2. How have you reacted to difficult circumstances in the past? How have they brought you closer to God and helped you to grow? How have they caused you to be distant from God?
3. Have you had an honest encounter with God like Martha did? What did that look like? What was the result?
4. How has God shown his care and provision for you in the midst of difficult circumstances (either now or in the past)?
5. What would it look like for you to lean into God's provision in our current circumstances?

*cont.*

## CONTINUED:

## LIVE IT OUT

***These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. If you've had difficulty seeing how God has been providing for you in our current crisis, commit to keeping a gratitude journal this week. Each day write down at least one way that God has provided for you, big or small. Ask your group to help keep you accountable to do this. You might even share a few of the ways God has provided for you at your next meeting!
2. Do you need to be honest with God about how you're feeling right now? What would it look like this week for you to be more honest in your communication with Him?
3. What are you walking through right now? Where do you need God to show you how he's using a painful circumstance to help you grow? How can your group pray for you in this?

*Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.*

# WAYPOINTS

Week 7 4.5.20

## THE RESURRECTION OF FAITH

John is showing us who Jesus is and who Jesus is not and what that for us right now

There is a weight to what we are going through as a nation & world right now.

GOD WORKS & GROWS OUR FAITH IN OUR WORST TIMES, THE HARDEST TIMES!

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but SHOUTS in our pain. It is a Megaphone to rouse a deaf world." -CS Lewis

Take this principle through this text/message.

**EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE YOU FACE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD TO GROW YOUR FAITH AND IS FOR GOD'S GLORY.**

James says "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that testing your faith develops perseverance." James 1:2-3



John 11:1-45

Martha & Mary go to Jesus & tell him that Lazarus, "the one Jesus loves" is very sick.

Jesus tells them that it will not end in death, but its for the glory of God.

But then Jesus stays where he is for 2 days. Mary & Martha are waiting/worrying.

Jesus goes. Martha says "if you had been here, my brother would not have died"

Jesus says our friend is asleep (meaning dead) & Jesus says for the disciples sake he is glad he wasn't with Lazarus, so they will believe.

The disciples remind Jesus that the Jews in Judea tried to stone him. They try to get Jesus to stay.

Jesus then says let's go back to Judea (where Lazarus is)

We say things like this all the time

Martha says, but I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.

Martha thinks when Jesus says Lazarus will be resurrected he meant she will see him in heaven.

**BUT JESUS SAYS "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!"**

They go to the grave & Jesus **WEPT**. Showing he really, deeply cares.

Jesus says take the stone away. Martha says but there will be an odor! Jesus PRAYS. Then says

"LAZARUS, COME OUT!" AND OUT WALKS LAZARUS!

Jesus promised LIFE & HOPE in every circumstance.

**MY CIRCUMSTANCE DO NOT CHANGE WHO JESUS IS. JESUS CHANGES ME THROUGH MY CIRCUMSTANCES!**

PRAY: GOD, I want to trust you in this. I want to see you in this. Would you grow me in this?