

## **Story of Hope // Lazarus Part 1**

John 11:1-44

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The days leading to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus reveal the sovereignty of God at work. The plan of God coming to fruition in the person of Jesus is remarkable. Each aspect of the account is preparing Jesus for what is to come and in that, preparing us to remember the plan of God fulfilled in Him. The passion week reveals Jesus' divinity, His power over time and circumstances, and most of all His love for us.*

*We know death, but Jesus knows life. This is true physically as well as emotionally and spiritually. Sin brings death. We are all sinners. As a result, we are all experiencing death and decay in various forms. But the righteousness and power of Jesus working in and through our lives brings life to dead things. Marriages, friendships, hopes, dreams, and ultimately our mortal bodies will be resurrected in Him.*

### **SERMON NOTES REVIEW**

Looking back at your sermon notes from this weekend's teaching, was there anything said that caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

### **CONVERSATION STARTERS**

1. Who will you be inviting to an Easter service?
2. Just for fun, which would you rather have been present: watching Lazarus be raised from the dead or eating with Jesus at the Last Supper?

### **WATCH THE VIDEO**

[https://youtu.be/U7aEIIgv\\_UI](https://youtu.be/U7aEIIgv_UI)

### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life?
2. Where have you seen God do a resurrection: either in your life or the life of a friend or family member?
3. Share with the group a specific area of your life you are praying would be restored or brought back to life.
4. How does belief in Jesus change your perspective on life and death? What kind of hope do you have because of your faith in Jesus?
5. What have you learned 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?

6. Read aloud John 11:32. What does Mary say to Jesus? Is she blaming Jesus for the death? Share a time when you have had this type of conversation with God.
7. Now read aloud John 11:33-36. How does Jesus respond to Mary's statement?
8. Read aloud John 11:4, 11, 23, and 40. How many times did Jesus allude to the fact He would raise Lazarus before the miracle took place?
9. Read aloud John 11:25-26. Jesus' claim and promise here are not just for Martha, but for all people at all times. Comparing a specific area of your life to the story of Lazarus, where are you right now? Describe the area and where you are at:
  - a. Still in the grave
  - b. Watching the stone being rolled away
  - c. Alive but still in the grave clothes
  - d. Alive and unwrapped
10. Even though Jesus gave him life, Lazarus still had a part to play. He had to come out of the grave. What part is God asking you to play or do in the area you are praying He needs to resurrect?

#### **PRAYER**

God, would You do what only You can do. We ask You to transform and resurrect the areas we discussed today with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. We believe You are able to do that. Give us wisdom and courage to do what You are asking us to do in those areas. In Jesus name, Amen.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Easter: Everything you need to know for Easter can be found at [Easter.sv.cc](http://Easter.sv.cc). You can sign up to serve, reserve seats for a service, and find digital invitations to send to friends. You never know what God might do through a simple invitation.