

**DAY ONE**

1. What was the most memorable verse or thought from last week's study? For what reason(s) was this memorable? Record some thoughts to share with your group.

**Read John 11:1-16**

2. As the chapter opens we are introduced to three people who had a close relationship with Christ. Read verses 1-3 as well as Luke 10:38-42 and record a few facts about each person.

Mary:

Martha:

Lazarus:

3a. The sisters sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was ill. When He heard this, Jesus stated that Lazarus' illness would not end in death, but was "for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it" (verse 4). Comment on the meaning of this statement.

b. Even though the one Jesus loved was ill, Jesus delayed leaving for 2 days. He then said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." What was the disciples' response (verse 8)?

4. Jesus responded by telling them that they should walk in His light. Complete His enigmatic answer:

Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day

But if one walks at night, he stumbles,

5a. Jesus told the disciples in verse 11 that Lazarus was asleep, but that He would go to awaken him. The disciples took Jesus' words literally and thought that Jesus would awaken and heal Lazarus. How can we glean this from their response in verse 12?

b. Jesus told the disciples that Lazarus was indeed dead; but that He was glad He was not there so that they could believe. Jesus then suggested that they go to Lazarus (verses 13-15). What did Thomas say to his fellow disciples, and to what do you think he was referring (verse 16)?

6. CONNECTION: In today's lesson Jesus prepared for His seventh, and greatest, sign. His beloved friend Lazarus died, and Jesus planned to "reawaken" him. Though dangerous to return to Bethany, Jesus wanted the disciples to clearly see His miraculous power. The philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer said: "Each day is a little life: every waking and rising a little birth, every fresh morning a little youth, every going to rest and sleep a little death." Do you agree? Can this thought make you more aware of God's gift to us of each day? In what ways can we walk more in Jesus' light by seeing each day as a little life?

Read and record [James 1:17](#) and let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

## **DAY TWO**

**Read John 11:17-27**

7. As today's lesson begins, Jesus arrived in Bethany. What did He find according to verse 17?

8a. Bethany was very near Jerusalem; thus, many of the Jews had come to Mary and Martha's home to comfort them about their brother (verses 18-19). According to verse 20 what did each of the sisters do when she heard that Jesus was coming?

Martha:

Mary:

b. Does this fit your picture of them? Why or why not?

9a. With what words did Martha reproach Jesus in verse 21?

b. How did Martha express her faith in verse 22?

10a. What did Jesus tell Martha in verse 23?

b. In verse 24 Martha said that she knew that her brother would rise again in the resurrection on the last day. Although she believed, Jesus asked her to believe even more deeply. Record Jesus' reply according to verse 25 and the first part of verse 26. (Good memory verse)

11a. From the second part of verse 26, record Jesus' question.

**THINK: Is this a question to which you can answer "Yes, Lord" as Martha does?**

b. Complete Martha's response in verse 27.

"Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah

12. CONNECTION: In today's verses Martha placed complete trust in Jesus. She knows in her heart that He is, indeed, the Messiah, and that He will not abandon them in their need. When He delayed coming to the aid of Lazarus, we can imagine that she must have first been frantic and then in deep distress. We all have family situations that we want Jesus to fix immediately. Often Jesus asks us to wait and trust in Him. Describe a time you, too, had to wait for Jesus' timing. Were you able to maintain your trust in Jesus? In what ways can you identify with Martha?

Read Psalm 40 and select a verse that is meaningful to you in times of distress. Let those reassuring words lead you into prayer.

### DAY THREE

Read John 11:28-37

13a. After Martha declared her belief in Jesus, the Messiah; she went to her sister Mary. What did Martha privately tell Mary, and what was Mary's response in verses 28-29?

b. Although in deep mourning, how wonderful it would be to know that Jesus, our Teacher, was asking for you! Imagine your own reaction and share a thought or two.

14. Upon hearing that Jesus had asked for her, Mary rose quickly and went to Him where He was outside the village (verses 30-31). Briefly summarize who followed her and their reasoning.

15. When Mary came to Jesus, she repeated Martha's words to Him in verse 21. Words that are repeated are often done so for emphasis. Record Mary (and Martha's) words from verse 32 and take a moment to reflect on their faith.

16. According to verses 33-34, the tears of Mary and the other mourners both perturbed and deeply troubled Jesus. Comment on these two emotions and what this says to you about Jesus.

17. He asked "Where have they laid him?" They responded to Jesus, "Sir, come and see," and Jesus wept (verses 34-35). Summarize the conflicting emotions that this created in the Jews who had accompanied Mary.

18. CONNECTION: In today's lesson we see Jesus' love for His friends. Clearly He has spent time with them relaxing and sharing feelings, as well as teaching. Think about your own friendships, and describe some of the characteristics of a very good friend, why you love him or her, and what you like to do together. Think of how you met, and how long you have been friends. Why is this person important in your life? Share your thoughts with your friends at The Cornerstone.

Reflect on the fact that Jesus enjoyed the same things with His closest friends that we do - laughter, tears, and shared ideals. Close in prayer thanking God for the beautiful gift of friendship. Take time this week to tell your friends how much they mean to you.

#### **DAY FOUR**

**Read John 11:38-44**

19a. As today's lesson begins, Jesus, once again perturbed, came to Lazarus' tomb. Look up the meaning of the word "perturbed" and comment on why Jesus could have been feeling this emotion.

b. Scholars speculate on the reason that Jesus was perturbed at the tomb of Lazarus. Was He angry at the existence of evil and death, filled with human compassion, or concerned that His gift of love would not be fully accepted? What are your thoughts?

20a. The tomb is described as a cave with a stone laid across it (verses 38-39). When Jesus requested that the stone be removed, why did Martha object?

b. Of what did Jesus remind Martha in verse 40?

21. So they took the stone away, and Jesus raised His eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me" (verse 41). In your own words, what did Jesus do and say in verse 42?

22. After Jesus explained why He had thanked God in front of the crowd, what did He do (verse 43)?

23a. The dead man then came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands and with his face wrapped in a cloth. What did Jesus say to them and what could this "unwrapping" symbolize (verse 44)?

b. The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest of the signs related in John. Meditate on how the raising of Lazarus prefigures another life-giving event. Read and record 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

24. CONNECTION: Try to imagine yourself as Lazarus and consider what you saw or felt as this miracle took place. Perhaps Lazarus' attitude toward life changed after he was called out from the grave and released from his wrappings. Perhaps he looked at the sunrise, the stars, and the faces of children with new eyes. Certainly his very breathing glorified God. As Christians we could each be called Lazarus. Has someone you know "come back to life" from a serious injury, a deadly sickness or life-taking addiction, or a life-changing event? How has their attitude changed? Give some details for your small group.

Read Romans 8:18-19 and write a prayer thanking God for our being reborn into eternal life.

#### **DAY FIVE**

**Read John 11:45-53**

25. As today's lesson begins, there were two different reactions to what Jesus had done (verses 45-46). What were they?

26a. According to verse 47, the chief priests and Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin, asking, "What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs." What did they fear would happen if they allowed Jesus to continue His work (verse 48)?

b. What could have been a reason or reasons they would have thought or said this?

27a. Caiaphas, the high priest for that year, spoke up and told them, "You know nothing." Summarize the point he made in verse 50.

b. John tells us that Caiaphas "did not say this on his own, but since he was high priest for that year" (beginning of verse 51). Complete John's explanation of Caiaphas' prophecy from the end of verse 51 and verse 52:

Jesus was going to die for the nation

but also to gather into one

28. Amazingly, Caiaphas prophesied the death of Jesus for the “people”, meaning the nation of Israel. Comment on his purpose versus God’s plan for Jesus’ death.

29. As a result of this meeting, what plan was adopted according to verse 53?

30. CONNECTION: The Jewish leaders were afraid that Jesus’ miracles, including the raising of Lazarus, were inciting the people toward a revolt which could incur the wrath of the Romans. They feared punishment such as the destruction of the Temple or at the least, losing their own positions and power. Like the Pharisees in this passage, when you encounter something new, do you see it as a threat? Can you see change as an opportunity to serve God in a new way? Give an example for your small group.

Read Deuteronomy 31:8 and let these words lead you into prayer.

#### **DAY SIX**

**Read John 11:54-57**

31. As today’s lesson begins, Jesus “no longer walked about in public among the Jews.” From the first part of verse 54, what did He do and where did He go?

32. Although we do not know the location of Ephraim, it is assumed to be on the way to Jerusalem. Once Jesus reached Ephraim, what did He do and with whom (last phrase of verse 54)?

33a. According to verse 55, the Passover of the Jews was near and therefore many went up from the country to Jerusalem to purify themselves. Share any information you remember about ways the Jewish people would purify themselves.

b. Comment on any connection you see between the attention caused by the raising of Lazarus, Passover, and the fulfillment of Jesus’ destiny.

34. What were many of the Jews speculating about Jesus (verse 56)?

35a. According to verse 57, what had the Pharisees and the chief priests done and what was their purpose?

b. Is there something that this reminds you of in history?

36. CONNECTION: The Pharisees ordered anyone who had seen or heard of Jesus' whereabouts to inform them. These authorities could also arrest those who did not cooperate with their commands. Consider what you would have done had you known of Jesus' whereabouts. Would you have kept silent about His location and chanced the anger of the Pharisees or would you have turned Him in to protect your family? How would you decide what to do? Share some thoughts with your small group.

In the book *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom, a family of Dutch Christians hid Jews during World War II in jeopardy of their lives. Corrie asked her father how she would ever find the courage to remain strong if captured. In response he asked her (when they take the train) "when do I give you your ticket"? She answered, "Just in time." He agreed, and said that "when the time comes that some of us will have to die, you will look into your heart and find the strength you need *just in time*." Let these thoughts lead you into prayer.

Read Lesson 11 John 11:1-57 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.