

## Digging Deeper into John 11

### Chat

- Have you ever wondered where Jesus was when you needed him?

### Study

You may like to read the whole story of Lazarus' death and resurrection in John 11:1-46 to give you an overview but we will then focus on particular parts of it.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+11&version=NIV>



#### Read John 11:1-7

- What does the way Mary and Martha describe Lazarus say about Jesus' relationship with him?
- Why do you think Jesus didn't go to Lazarus as soon as he heard he was sick?

#### Read John 11:17-27

- Martha shows mixed emotions in her statement to Jesus (v.21-22). What are they?
- What does she think Jesus means when he says, "Your brother will rise again" (v.23-24)?
- This leads to an incredible statement from Jesus in v.25-26. What does Jesus claim?
- What do we learn of Martha's faith in her time of grief?

#### Read John 11:28-37

- What is Mary's implied question in what she says to Jesus (v.32)?
- Jesus responded in words to Martha. How does he respond to Mary (v.33-35)?
- The words translated 'deeply moved' have an element of anger as well as sadness, showing strong emotion. Who or what do you think Jesus was angry about?
- What does the response of the friends and onlookers imply (v.37)?

#### Read John 11:38-44

- How does Jesus point people's attention to God (v.40-42)?
- Using his name, Jesus calls Lazarus to come out of his tomb, and he walks out. Imagine the scene – where a man who had been dead and buried for four days, walks out of his tomb alive. What would you have thought if you'd been there?

*It has been said that this story faces the harsh facts of illness and death and does justice to the realities of loss, grief and anger, whilst trusting that they do not have the last word.*

*(David F. Ford, The Gospel of John – a theological commentary, 2021)*

#### Read 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

- Lazarus died again but the promise of final resurrection was true for him as it is for us. What does Paul say will happen to our bodies?
- He refers to passages in Isaiah (25:8) and Hosea (13:14). Why has death lost its victory and sting (v.54-57)?
- Knowing that death itself has been defeated by Jesus, how should we live out our faith (v.58)?

**Think**

- Has your faith ever held you strong in a time of grief?
- Have friends of yours ever questioned why “your God” has not helped you in a particular situation? What would you say to them if they did?
- Are there any fears you have about death or dying? How might these passages help to ease those fears?

