



In John 11, Lazarus is raised from the dead. There are several significant aspects of this story. The first is the bravery of Jesus to go back to the region where He was almost stoned to death. The second is Jesus' demonstration of great love and compassion by entering into the broken situations of others. In this instance, He not only entered in, but he participated and wept alongside Mary and Martha. Finally, Jewish culture believed that a person's spirit was "locked out" of their body after four days. So, for Jesus to bring Lazarus back from the dead was a true act of God. Study and discuss these questions and consider how Jesus also gives you new life.

1. In John 11 we read about Jesus raising a dead man back to life. When you think about this in natural terms, do you struggle to think that Jesus could bring people who are dead back to life? How does this passage stretch your thinking?
2. **Read John 11:4-10, 16.** We see the disciples hesitate to go back Judea. Put yourself in the shoes of the disciples. Would you be fearful to go back to this region where they recently tried to kill Jesus? Why or why not?
3. **Read John 11:21 and 32.** Martha and Mary basically say the same thing to Jesus. Both sisters wish things had turned out differently with their brother. It also seems like they might be blaming Jesus. Have you ever blamed Jesus before the story was finished? Share what you learned from that experience with your group.
4. Part of growing in our walk with Jesus is maturing in our faith. A mature faith is able to recognize that God doesn't answer all of our prayers how we want Him to answer them. Share about a time where you matured in your faith through trials.
5. **Read John 11:23-27.** Jesus gives us another "I am" statement here in the Gospel of John. He says, "I am the resurrection and the life." Share with your group how Jesus has given you new life in the time you've been following Him.
6. **Read John 11:35, 44.** This passage highlights the humanity and deity of Jesus. If someone were to ask you about the humanity and deity of Jesus, would you be able to explain that? What verses would you use?
7. The conclusion of the story is that Lazarus is raised from the dead. **Read John 11:38-44.** Are there places in your spiritual life that feel dead right now and need new life? Share with your group what these places are and ask for prayer.
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for God to bring new life to your faith.