

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

APRIL 25/26, 2020

WHEN GOD DELAYS – NOW WHAT?

JOHN 11

**Note to Leaders:** Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.

## FOR STARTERS

1. Check in with everyone—how are you doing this week?
2. Think of a time when you prayed about something when your life was seemingly on hold and at the end you said, like the sisters, “If only you had been here Lord...” How did you do? How did, or is, God using that to give or grow your faith?

## DIGGING IN

**Big Idea:** When God delays, His purpose is to gain glory as we grow in faith!

1. To find this story in its proper context, look at John 10:22-33 and John 11:45-53. What reasons did they give for wanting to kill Jesus?
2. What reason does Jesus give for not rushing to Lazarus’ aide? Look at verses 4 and 14.
3. What’s the connection between our faith in God and His glory? Look up 1 Peter 1:6-9.
4. Look again and note the differences between Jesus’ interaction with Martha (verses 21-27) and Mary (verses 32-35). How does He show His deity and humanity? How can this help us when God delays?
5. How do you think Lazarus described His resurrection from the tomb? Share your thoughts.
6. How do you make sense out of John 11:45-53? While many believed, others wanted to kill Jesus. How does that help us make sense of people who are hostile to Jesus today?

## BRINGING IT HOME

1. How could you use this story to encourage someone whose life is on hold right now? Who has God laid on your heart and what can you share from John 11 that would hopefully help them?
2. Is there an area you've been saying, "God, if only you showed up—now it's too late"? How is God speaking to you through His Word?
3. What have you learned about Jesus this week that is making it easier to follow Him? Anything that is making it more challenging?
4. How is Jesus addressing your own thoughts and fears about death from this passage? How could you use verse 25 to bring comfort to someone you know and love that is in their last days?

## GOING DEEPER

1. The Bible uses clothing as a metaphor in different ways. Look up the following:
  - a. Genesis 3:21 – The first piece of clothing was made from what? Why did they need clothes and what was required for Adam and Eve to be clothed?
  - b. Isaiah 61:10 and 1 Corinthians 1:30 – What does God/Jesus clothe us with?
  - c. Colossians 3:9-14 – Note what we are to put off (grave clothes) and what we are to put on.
  - d. Revelation 7:9-17 – Notice the clothing of those in heaven.
2. Read, meditate on and memorize this scripture: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?'" John 11:25-26

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Jesus went back to Jerusalem for Lazarus and his sisters **and us**, knowing He would end up being hated, and ultimately crucified on the cross in our place for our sin. God's delay was part of God's grand story that amazingly intersects with our life's story. Use that to thank and praise God in your prayer time.

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