

LESSON NINE

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

JOHN 11:1-45

1. **Read and re-read the passage:** Pray before you read it. What is happening in this miracle story? Who are the people involved? Where does this miracle take place? When does it take place?

2. **What else is going on?** Look back at John 10. How does Jesus describe Himself in John 10:7-18?

What is the reaction of the Pharisees to Jesus' statements in John 10:31-40?

How is Jesus' ministry growing in John 10:40-42?

3. What kind of relationship does Jesus have with Lazarus, Mary, and Martha?

What is unexpected in the way that Jesus responds to the news that Lazarus has died?

4. When Jesus arrives in Bethany, how long had Lazarus been dead?

Why is this significant to the miracle Jesus is about to do?

5. Martha and Mary each have their own conversations with Jesus about their grief.

- a. What does Jesus tell Martha about Lazarus?
- b. Does she blame Him for her brother's death?
- c. How does He help her understanding of who He is (verses 25-26)?
- d. How does Jesus meet Mary in her grief?
- e. Is she blaming Jesus? Read John 11:33-36.
- f. What do we learn about Jesus' compassion and humanity?

BIBLE DICTIONARY:

“Deeply moved” is used to describe Jesus' feelings about Lazarus' death in John 11:33 and 38. It implies outrage or indignation toward death itself.

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

When you go through times of pain, suffering, and sorrow, do you think it is okay to ask God questions? How are you strengthened and comforted by seeing from the narrative how Jesus sympathizes with you when you are grieving?

6. When Jesus stands before Lazarus' tomb, what does He command be done?

- a. What assurance does He give Martha in John 11:38-40?
 - b. How does this affirm her previously expressed faith in John 11:27?
7. In what ways does this miracle glorify God as Jesus said it would in John 11:4?
8. When Lazarus is raised from the dead, how do the people respond? **Read John 11:45, 53, 57, and 12:10.**
9. Little did this crowd know that in only a few weeks Jesus would also be buried in a tomb after He was crucified on the cross as our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord. Instead of men rolling the stone away, angels did. And they announced to Mary Magdalene and her two friends that Jesus had risen, just as He said He would (Mark 16:1-7). What does this miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead teach us about death and the Kingdom of God and how Christ alone saves us?

OWNING THE PASSAGE:

You may be facing a difficult or painful situation. Is there any area of unbelief about who Jesus is that keeps you from surrendering that circumstance to Him? Ask Jesus to use these circumstances to build your faith and bring glory to Himself.

EXPLORE MORE:

A. Affliction is the tool God uses most often to usher us into clearer truth about Him and allow us to experience His power in our lives more fully. The psalms of lament are expressions of faith that are borne out of complete desperation. In these psalms, the psalmist always (with one exception) comes around to a better understanding of God's greatness and provision for His people's restoration.

Read Psalm 42. What are some of the ways the psalmist is expressing the same sentiments Martha and Mary are expressing to Jesus?

B. In what ways does this story of Lazarus refute the false gospel that if God were truly good, He would not allow bad things to happen?