

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE / MARCH 31

TO APPLY, NOT REHASH, THE SERMON

Read

Read John 11:11–26 and consider making some observations about the passage.

Sermon Recap

Review the sermon with your group, highlighting the following:

- “Death, or fear of death, is probably our biggest felt need. Death is one of those ever present realities for us that we can ignore, at times, until we can’t.”
- “Even when Jesus knows the pain is temporary, he knows what it feels like for you, and he weeps with you.”
- “Only one person in history has ever gone into the darkness of the grave and walked out by his own power. And he’s standing there in front of Martha saying, ‘I AM the resurrection and the life.’”
- “In order for us to never die, Jesus had to die in our place.”

Group Discussion

1. Discuss a time when you felt God was delaying his response to your prayers. How does the story of Lazarus speak to that experience?
2. How does Jesus’ deep concern for our pain and his weeping with us impact how we face our own struggles and losses?
3. What do you think the “I am” statement in John 11:25–26 means? What is Jesus communicating about himself and about true faith in him?
4. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then what would change in your life? Would you live any differently than you do now?
5. Why is the resurrection of Jesus such an essential part of a Christian’s faith?

SCRIPTURE

- “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

- Romans 6:4–5 (ESV)

PRAYER

- Ask God to comfort those among us and in our community who are grieving or facing loss, that they may experience Jesus’ presence and hope through his promise of resurrection.
- Pray that God would grant us a deeper understanding of Jesus as “the resurrection and the life,” asking God to reveal the depth of this truth in your daily lives.