

## **DISCUSSION 1**

Lazarus dies (vv. 1-16)

1. What reasons does Jesus give for allowing Lazarus to stay sick, and eventually die? How might his response give us hope for our difficult times?
2. How does Thomas's response show the heart of the disciples when Jesus told them that he was going back to Judea?

## **DISCUSSION 2**

Jesus explains life and death (vv. 17-37)

1. What would you say is the significance of Jesus's phrase, "I am the resurrection and the life"?
2. Even though Mary and Martha stated the same phrase, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (vv. 21, 32), what are some differences in their responses to their brother's death?
3. In verses 33-37, how was Jesus emotionally moved after Mary came to express her sorrow to him? How does Mary's sorrow inform our laments to God?
4. How does Jesus's sadness over the death of Lazarus show us that it is okay to grieve brokenness in the world?

## **DISCUSSION 3**

Lazarus lives (vv. 38-44)

1. In John 10:17-18, Jesus said he had the authority to lay his life down and raise it back up. Lazarus didn't have this power; he was raised by someone else. How does this show Jesus's resurrection as superior to every other resurrection in the Bible?

2. Why does Jesus continually focus on belief in his conversations with Mary and Martha (vv. 40-42)? How do his questions confront us in our unbelief? What can we do to strengthen our belief in him?
3. What characteristics of Lazarus's resurrection are similar to the resurrection of Jesus?

## **FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS**

1. What is resurrection?
2. Is it okay to be sad about death? Why or why not?
3. What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for us if we believe in him?

## **APPLICATION**

- The disciples' reactions often help us see how we would naturally respond to situations. Make a list of situations that Jesus might be leading you into that will be costly and will push you to trust him more. Pray for strength in those situations.
- Jesus consistently claims that we must believe he is the resurrection and the life. Christians must believe that we cannot save ourselves from death, and this fits in perfectly with Paul's words in Romans 10:9, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Think of two or three people you know who do not believe that Jesus was raised from the dead. Take them out for coffee and share with them about Jesus's resurrection and why it matters.