

February 23 Discussion Questions

“Actions Reveal Beliefs”

John 11:1-7, 17-27, 39-45

Review

Jesus believed:

1. **God’s Glory is ultimate**, not physical health (v. 1-4)
 - So He trusted the Father’s **Timing** (v. 6)
2. **God’s Plan is Best**, not human plans (v. 7-8,21)
 - So He **Followed** the Spirit’s leading (v. 9-10, 41-42)
3. **God’s Love is Constant**, even in our pain (v. 3, 5)
 - So He **Shared** in His friends’ suffering (v. 33, 35-36)
4. **God’s Power is Supreme**, even over death (v. 23-24)
 - So He prayed the **Impossible** (v. 25-26)

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. **Do you believe this?**”* John 11:25-26

Connect

1. What is something in our world that is true, yet you have a hard time believing? Why do you think this is the case?
2. What is a spiritual truth that you have a hard time believing? How has this affected the way you practice Christianity?

Read John 11:1-7, 17-27, 39-45

Discuss

3. Why didn’t Jesus immediately respond to Mary and Martha’s request to heal Lazarus? What does Jesus mean by His response?
4. What good things do we value more than God’s glory? How might this cause a conflict of interest in our prayers?
5. Did Mary and Martha’s actions reveal a true belief in Jesus as “the resurrection and the life?” How would their actions in this story be different if they truly believed this?

6. How did Jesus demonstrate love for Lazarus and his family? What does this reveal about Jesus' heart towards evil? (see v.33-36) How does this comfort you in the face of evil?
7. In the end, how did Jesus receive more glory by waiting to help Lazarus? What does this teach you?

Apply

8. It didn't make sense to Mary and Martha that Jesus didn't immediately come to heal Lazarus. What has God told you to do that didn't make sense? What was the result?
9. What are you waiting on God to do right now? How do you think God might be glorified because of the waiting?
10. What habits, tendencies, or life choices do you have that might rub against your belief in Jesus, His saving work, or eternity in Heaven?
11. What changes, big or small, might you make to reflect a stronger belief in God?

Pray

12. Pray that God would increase your belief this week and give you the strength to make necessary changes to reflect this.