

STUDY GUIDE - Don't Stay Home

Key Scriptures: "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God.....These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:26-27, 33

Read John 11:1, 3-4, 17, 20, 25-26, and 33-39.

1 John 4:19 "We love Him because He first loved us."

Start Talking:

In Luke 10:38-42, Martha was too busy to worship at the feet of Jesus, but Mary was not. In John 11:17-20, Martha went to meet Jesus, but Mary stayed home. Do you know anyone who loves to worship God, but who "stays home" when it comes time to reach out to Jesus in times of trouble? Discuss the difference between worship and faith in action? Do both have their places?

When trials come to you in life, do you go to meet Jesus, or have you given up on expecting answers from Him? What happened to result in this lack of faith? Share from your personal life or the events in the life of someone you know.

How do you explain that God, Who is above all things, allows calamities, such as tornadoes, droughts, and floods, and violent acts of sin, such as, rape, murder and abuse? Discuss the real cause of these tragedies. Discuss to find the answer?

Read John 16: 25-33. Verse 33 reads, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." How hard is it to embrace this truth and apply this verse in troubling times? What challenges people's embrace of this scripture? Share.

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Start Thinking:

Pastor Jason shared about reading the Super Mario magazine which gave instructions about how to defeat his enemy? Do most Christians go directly to the Bible for answers about overcoming trouble? Why does the Bible seem to not pertain to our modern issues for many people? What is wrong with this belief and attitude? Share.

As with the fatal illness of Lazarus, God sometimes doesn't answer prayers how and when we want Him to, and believe He should. Have you ever considered that the purpose of our problem could be the glory of God, and is not really "all about us"? Discuss.

Start Sharing:

How often do you stop worrying about a current trial and remember that God has an eternal perception of everything? Can you take hold of the truth that God's perspective is perfectly in time with His love and care towards you? Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps."

In John 11:25-26, after Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die", He asked, "Do you believe this?" Why did He ask this question? Would Jesus ask it to Christians today? Discuss.

John 11: 35 reads, "Jesus wept." If Jesus knew that He could and would raise Lazarus from the grave, why did He weep? What does this verse say about Him? Discuss.

Start Praying: "Lord, give us the faith to remember that You loved us even before we loved You, and that we must go running to You for the issues of life. We can have no abundant life without You. Let us never forget that."

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Start Doing:

John 11:39 reads, "Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him (Jesus), 'Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.'" Have you ever tried to tell God how to do what you're asking Him to do fix?

Have you ever tried to talk God out of something that you're afraid He might do? Share.