

DIGGING DEEPER

John 11:1-44

This week was the finale of our **Signs & Wonders** series - concluding with the 7th sign in John's Gospel: the raising of Lazarus from the dead in John 11. Before you begin, pause together and invite the Holy Spirit to guide your conversation, and that God's Word would speak directly into your life.

OPTIONAL ICEBREAKER: When was the last time you caught yourself saying "If only..."? ("If only I had more time...", "If only I made a different choice...")

What do those moments tend to reveal about your expectations or regrets?

READ THE PASSAGE TOGETHER: John 11:1-44

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Don't feel pressure to get through every question! Follow where the Spirit leads and spend your time on the questions that spark meaningful discussion.

1. What from the passage stands out to you?
2. Jesus delays coming to Lazarus, yet still grieves alongside others. What does this teach us about God's timing vs. our expectations? How have you experienced Jesus meeting you *in* a situation rather than immediately fixing it?
3. Verse 35 is the shortest verse in the Bible, but incredibly powerful. In verse 38, Jesus is "deeply moved." What stands out to you about Jesus' response? What does this tell us about God's character?
4. Martha and Mary both say: "Lord, if only you had been here..." (vv. 21, 32). Can you relate? Where in your life have you felt like God was late or absent?
5. Earlier in John, Jesus invites people to "come and see." Here, Mary invites Jesus into her grief: "Come and see." Consider this quote from N.T. Wright and discuss: "**Come and see; we say to Jesus, as we lead him, all tears, to the place of our deepest grief and sorrow. 'Come and see; he says to us in reply, as he leads us through the sorrow to the place where he now dwells in light and love and resurrection glory. And, even more evocative (21.12), 'come and have breakfast'. The new day is dawning; and, though where we live the night can be very dark, and the tears very bitter, there is light and joy waiting not far away.'**" (*John for Everyone*)
6. Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life." (v. 25) This miracle points ahead to Jesus' own death and resurrection. How does this sign personally strengthen your confidence in His promises?

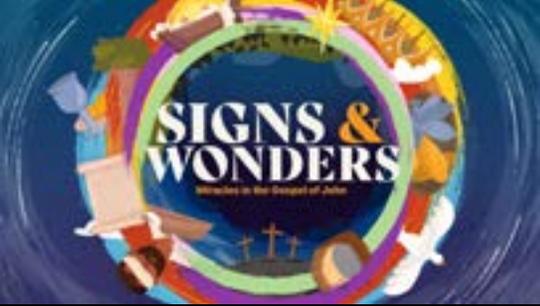
APPLICATION: Reflect quietly or share with the group...

- Where are you currently living in an "if only" mindset?
- What would it look like to trust Jesus even *there*?
- Is there an area of grief, disappointment, or "dead" hope you need to bring to Him?

CHALLENGE FOR THE WEEK: Be honest and bring Jesus the facts of your life and allow him to, "Come and see."

GROUP PRAYER TIME: Share requests and pray for one another. Be especially praying for the Church, for our community, and for Holy Week!





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MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

Fair Oaks Church Sermon Podcast (Apple Podcasts & Spotify) to listen to just the message. Check out **Cutting Room Floor** episodes that further unpack sermons. **Note: We're taking a break during Holy Week! Cutting Room Floor episodes will be back with our next series starting on April 12.**

UPCOMING EVENTS [Learn more at fairoaks.church/events](https://fairoaks.church/events)

- **4/2: WFO Women's Brunch** | 9:30-11:30a | FLC, AMC | Speaker: Carole Brewer
- **4/10: Sisterhood Women's Gathering** | 6:30-8p
- **4/10: Food Distribution at FO/OV Food Bank** | 9a-12:30p | Sign up to help
- **4/12: Food Drive** | Bring donations to drop off spot in lobby
- **4/25: Missions Dinner & Auction Fundraiser** | Tickets available online (in person starting 4/12) | Now collecting NEW items & gifts cards until 4/10

HOLY WEEK 2026 [Learn more at fairoaks.church/easter](https://fairoaks.church/easter)

- **Good Friday:** Service at 6:30p | Worship Center | Childcare available & Kids Program for 1st-5th grade
- **Easter Sunday:** Services at 9a & 10:30a | Childcare at 9a (under 3), Kids Program at 10:30a(babies-5th) | Sign up to help us host!

NOTE: No Digging Deeper guide for 4/5, but will resume on 4/12 with our next series. Happy Easter!