

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: “UNBIND HIM – FROM DEATH TO LIFE”

(John 11:1–45 – The Raising of Lazarus)

Source:

BIG IDEA

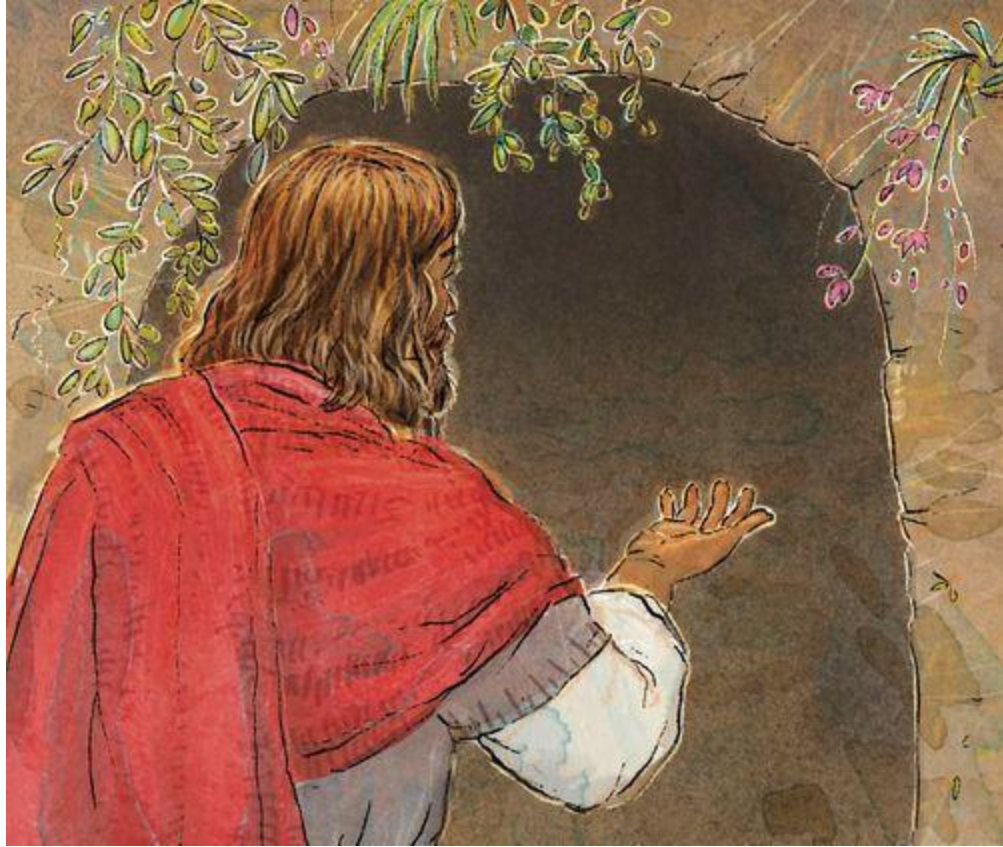
Jesus has authority over death, but His greater work is calling us out of spiritual death and into a **new life free from our past**.

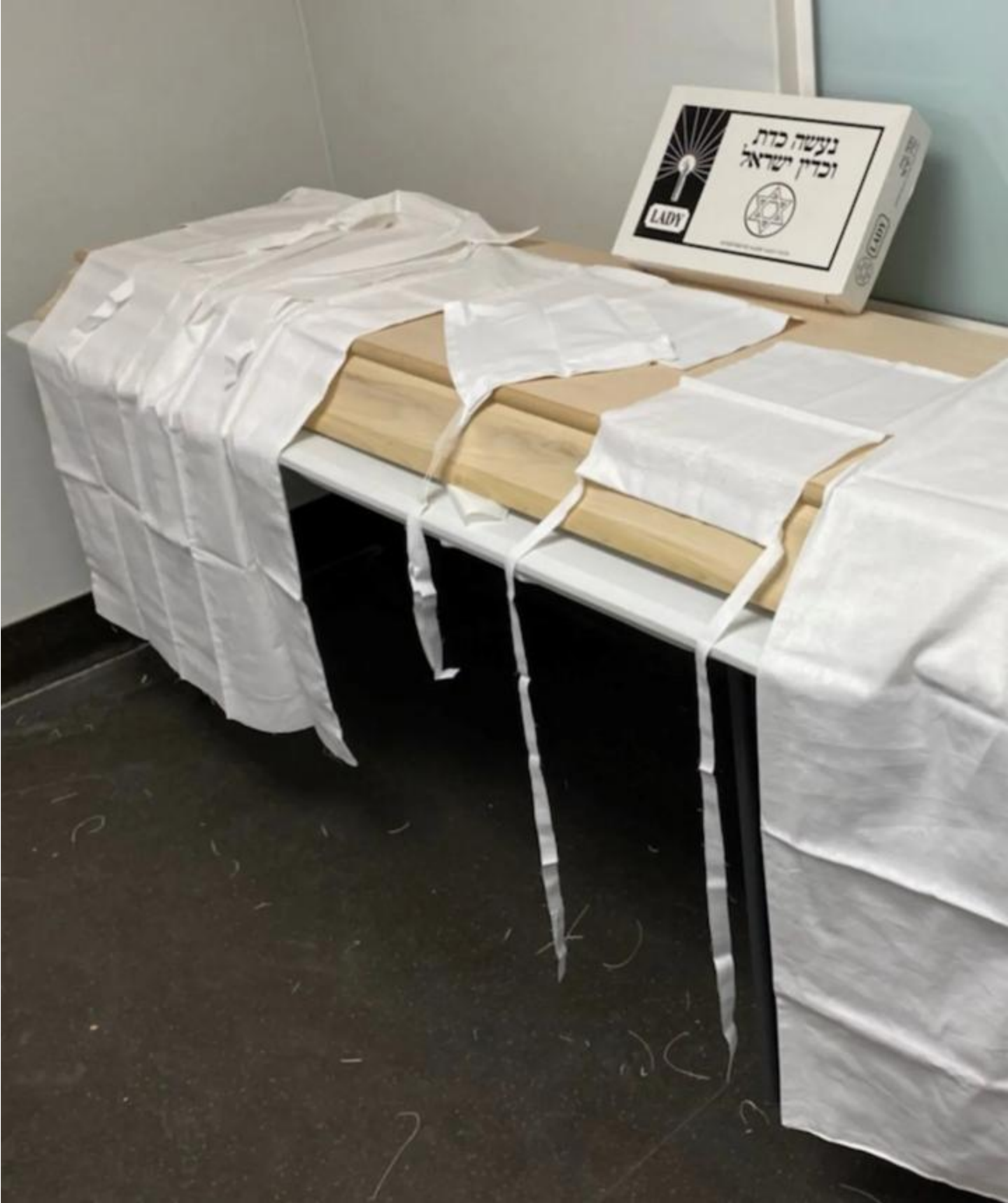
THEME

Trusting Jesus in Delay, Walking in Resurrection, and Leaving the Old Life Behind

CONTEXT (Historical + Biblical Setting)







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- Takes place in **John 11**, just before Jesus enters Jerusalem.
 - Follows rising tension after **John 10**, where Jesus is nearly stoned.
 - Jesus performs His **most dramatic miracle**—raising Lazarus after 4 days.
 - This event:
 - Confirms His identity
 - Accelerates the plot to kill Him
 - Points directly to His own resurrection
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MAIN POINT 1: GOD’S DELAY HAS A PURPOSE

Key Scripture

- John 11:6 – *“He stayed where he was two more days.”*
- John 11:4 – *“This sickness will not end in death... for God’s glory.”*

Teaching Insight

- Jesus delays intentionally—not out of neglect.
- The delay creates space for:
 - Greater faith
 - Greater revelation

- Greater glory
- What feels like abandonment is often **divine timing**.

Application

- Where are you struggling with God's timing?
- Can you trust Him even when nothing is happening?

Sticky Quote

“God’s delay is not absence—it’s preparation.”

MAIN POINT 2: FAITH OFTEN BELIEVES—BUT WITH LIMITS

Key Scripture

- John 11:21 – *“If you had been here...”*
- John 11:25–27 – *“I am the resurrection and the life...”*

Teaching Insight

- Martha believes—but only to a point.
- She trusts Jesus to heal—but not to raise the dead.
- Many believers:
 - Trust God in the natural
 - Struggle to trust Him in the impossible

Application

- Where have you limited what God can do?
- Do you believe Jesus is powerful—or all-powerful?

Sticky Quote

“Limited faith believes in Jesus—but not fully.”

MAIN POINT 3: JESUS REDEFINES DEATH AND LIFE

Key Scripture

- John 11:25 – *“Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die.”*
- John 11:43 – *“Lazarus, come out!”*

Teaching Insight

- Jesus proves:
 - Death is not final
 - The grave has no authority
- Lazarus’ resurrection is a **preview of Easter**.
- Even when we don’t see physical miracles:
 - Eternal life is still guaranteed

Application

- How does your view of death affect how you live?
- Are you living for eternity or just the present?

Sticky Quote

“Jesus doesn’t just delay death—He defeats it.”

MAIN POINT 4: JESUS CALLS US OUT—BUT OTHERS HELP UNBIND US

Key Scripture

- John 11:44 – *“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*
- Galatians 6:2 – *“Carry each other’s burdens.”*

Teaching Insight

- Lazarus comes out alive—but still bound.
- Jesus commands others to:
 - Remove the grave clothes
 - Help him walk in freedom
- This shows:
 - Salvation is personal
 - But growth is **communal**

Application

- Who is helping you grow spiritually?
- Who are you helping “unbind” in their life?

Sticky Quote

“Jesus brings life—but the community helps bring freedom.”

MAIN POINT 5: STOP PUTTING ON OLD GRAVE CLOTHES

Key Scripture

- John 11:44 – “*Unbind him...*”
- Colossians 3:9–10 – “*Put off the old self... put on the new.*”

Teaching Insight

- The grave clothes represent:
 - Sin
 - Shame
 - Past identity
- Even after new life:
 - We are tempted to go back
- The enemy—and people—will try to:
 - Remind you of your past
 - Re-label your identity

Application

- What “rags” are you still holding onto?
- Are you letting others define you by your past?

Sticky Quote

“Don’t wear what Jesus already buried.”

MAIN POINT 6: NOT EVERY MIRACLE LOOKS THE SAME

Key Scripture

- Hebrews 11:1 – *“Faith is confidence in what we hope for...”*
- John 20:29 – *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

Teaching Insight

- Lazarus experienced immediate resurrection.
- Most people don’t experience that kind of miracle.
- But:
 - Spiritual resurrection is just as real
 - Eternal life is the greater miracle

Application

- Can you trust God without visible results?
- Do you believe even when you don’t see?

Sticky Quote

“The greatest miracle isn’t what you see—it’s what God is doing unseen.”

MAIN POINT 7: RESURRECTION LIFE REQUIRES DAILY SURRENDER

Key Scripture

- Ephesians 6:11 – *“Put on the full armor of God.”*
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“New creation.”*

Teaching Insight

- Walking in new life is a daily decision.
- The battle is ongoing:
 - Between truth and lies
 - Between new life and old identity
- You must:
 - Reject old narratives
 - Embrace your new identity in Christ

Application

- What voices are shaping your identity?
- Are you living in freedom—or in past wounds?

Sticky Quote

“Resurrection is given—but freedom is lived out daily.”

MAIN POINT 8: DON'T LET OTHERS KEEP YOU IN THE GRAVE

Key Scripture

- Romans 8:1 – *“No condemnation for those in Christ.”*
- Philippians 3:13 – *“Forgetting what is behind...”*

Teaching Insight

- People may try to:
 - Keep you in your past
 - Define you by your failures
- Even Paul faced this:
 - Former persecutor
 - Yet called and redeemed
- Your identity is not in your history—it's in Christ.

Application

- Are you allowing others to hold you back?
- What would it look like to fully step into your calling?

Sticky Quote

“Your past may explain you—but it no longer defines you.”

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where have you experienced God's delay?
2. What limits have you placed on God?
3. What "grave clothes" are you still wearing?
4. Who has helped you grow in your faith journey?
5. Are you living more in your past or your new identity?
6. How can you help others walk in freedom?

PRACTICAL CHALLENGE

- Identify one "grave cloth" to remove this week.
- Encourage someone else in their walk.
- Speak truth over your identity daily.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

Jesus is still calling people out of tombs today.
The question is:

Will you step out—and stay free?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord,
Call us out of every place of death in our lives.
Give us the courage to leave behind our past.
Help us walk fully in the new life You've given us.
Surround us with people who help us grow and stay free.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

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