

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: “HE IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE”

(John 11:1–44 – The Raising of Lazarus)

Source:

BIG IDEA

Jesus is not limited by our circumstances—He is the **Resurrection and the Life**, calling us to trust Him even when we don’t understand His timing.

THEME

Trusting Jesus in Delay, Death, and New Life

CONTEXT (Historical + Biblical Setting)







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- This event occurs in **John 11**, just before Jesus' final journey to Jerusalem.
 - In **John 10**, Jesus narrowly escapes being stoned—tension is rising.
 - The raising of Lazarus becomes the **final sign** that leads to the plot to kill Jesus.
 - Jewish belief: After **3 days**, the spirit was gone—Lazarus being dead 4 days proves **true death**.
 - This miracle foreshadows **Easter**—Jesus' victory over death.
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MAIN POINT 1: GOD'S DELAY IS NOT GOD'S DENIAL

Key Scripture

- John 11:5–6 – *“Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So... he stayed where he was two more days.”*
- John 11:14–15 – *“Lazarus is dead... for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.”*

Teaching Insight

- Jesus **intentionally delays**—not out of neglect, but for a greater purpose.

- What feels like abandonment is often **divine preparation**.
- We often interpret delay as:
 - God saying “no”
 - God not caring
 - God being absent
- But Jesus proves delay can lead to **greater revelation and glory**.

Application

- Where in your life are you interpreting delay as denial?
- Can you trust God is working beyond what you see?

Sticky Quote

“God’s delay is not His denial—it’s His setup for something greater.”

MAIN POINT 2: LIMITED FAITH MUST GROW INTO COMPLETE TRUST

Key Scripture

- John 11:21–22 – Martha believes Jesus could have healed Lazarus.
- John 11:25–27 – *“I am the resurrection and the life...”*

Teaching Insight

- Martha believes—but with **limitations**:
 - She trusts Jesus for healing
 - But not for resurrection
- Many believers do the same:
 - Trust God for small things
 - Struggle to trust Him with the impossible

Application

- Where does your faith stop short?
- Do you believe Jesus is powerful—or **all-powerful**?

Sticky Quote

“Faith that stops short will miss what God wants to fully reveal.”

MAIN POINT 3: JESUS REDEFINES DEATH FOR THE BELIEVER

Key Scripture

- John 11:25–26 – *“Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die.”*
- 1 Corinthians 15:54–55 – *“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*

Teaching Insight

- Jesus shifts the definition of death:
 - Not an end
 - But a transition to life
- Even when miracles don't happen the way we want:
 - Resurrection still happens eternally
- This truth anchors hope in grief and loss.

Application

- How does your view of death shape your fear, grief, or anxiety?
- Are you living for eternity or just the present?

Sticky Quote

“For the believer, death is not defeat—it’s doorway to life.”

MAIN POINT 4: JESUS ENTERS WHAT WE FEAR AND TRANSFORMS IT

Key Scripture

- John 11:38–39 – Jesus approaches the tomb.
- John 11:43–44 – *“Lazarus, come out!”*

Teaching Insight

- Jewish law considered the dead **unclean**—yet Jesus moves toward it.

- Jesus consistently enters:
 - Brokenness
 - Sin
 - Death
 - Pain
- He doesn't avoid it—He **transforms it**.

Application

- What area of your life are you avoiding that Jesus wants to enter?
- Invite Him into that place.

Sticky Quote

“Jesus doesn't avoid your darkest places—He walks into them and changes them.”

MAIN POINT 5: LEAVE THE GRAVE CLOTHES BEHIND

Key Scripture

- John 11:44 – *“Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*
- Colossians 3:9–10 – *“You have taken off your old self... and put on the new self.”*

Teaching Insight

- Lazarus is alive—but still wrapped in death garments.
- Many believers are saved—but still:
 - Living in old habits
 - Carrying old identities
 - Returning to old sin
- Jesus calls us not just to life—but to **new life**.

Application Questions

- What “grave clothes” are you still wearing?
 - Old addictions?
 - Old mindset?
 - Old identity?
- What would it look like to fully walk in new life?

Sticky Quote

“Don’t live in what Jesus already buried.”

MAIN POINT 6: TRUST GOD WHEN YOU DON’T SEE THE MIRACLE

Key Scripture

- John 20:29 – *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*

Teaching Insight

- Not everyone sees a Lazarus moment.
- Faith is not based on visible outcomes—but on **who Jesus is**.
- The real question:
 - Do you believe even when nothing changes?

Application

- Will you trust God even if your situation doesn't change?
- Can you anchor your faith in His identity, not outcomes?

Sticky Quote

“Real faith believes even when the miracle doesn't happen the way we expect.”

MAIN POINT 7: LIVE WITH A VERTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Key Scripture

- Matthew 6:33 – *“Seek first the kingdom of God...”*
- Colossians 3:2 – *“Set your minds on things above...”*

Teaching Insight

- We tend to live:
 - **Horizontally** → focused on circumstances

- Jesus calls us to live:
 - **Vertically** → focused on Him
- When we do:
 - Pain is redefined
 - Purpose becomes clear
 - Life gains eternal meaning

Application

- Are your decisions driven by temporary or eternal priorities?
- What needs to shift in your focus?

Sticky Quote

“When your eyes are vertical, your life gains eternal perspective.”

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where have you experienced God’s delay recently?
 2. What limitations have you placed on God?
 3. How does Jesus being “the resurrection and the life” change your view of death?
 4. What grave clothes do you need to leave behind?
 5. What would it look like to fully trust Jesus right now?
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FINAL CHALLENGE

- Step out of your “tomb” (fear, sin, doubt).
 - Stop picking up what Jesus already buried.
 - Walk in new life—by faith, not sight.
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CLOSING PRAYER

Lord,

Help us trust You in the delay.

Remind us that You are the resurrection and the life.

Give us the courage to leave behind our old ways and walk fully in the new life You offer.

Strengthen our faith—even when we don't see.

In Jesus' name, Amen.