

SERMON NOTES:

Manny Lotito
07-05-2026
John 11:28-44

Title: *Tested Genuineness*

Big idea: The Lord tests our faith for a life giving purpose

1 Peter 1:3-7 ESV

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

²⁸ And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, “The Teacher has come and is calling for you.” ²⁹ As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him.

1. During trials go to Jesus.

³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but ^[b]was in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, ^[c]saying, “She is going to the tomb to weep there.”

³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ³⁴ And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵ Jesus wept.

2. Christ empathizes with your grief

James 1:2-4

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces ^[a]patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be ^[b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

3. Know testing produces endurance

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”³⁷ And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

4. You will see His glory if you believe and obey

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone ^[d]*from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

Group Discussion Leader Guide

LIFE Group Guide:

General Timeline Guide: (Adjust as appropriate for your group's needs.)

5-10 minutes connecting personally with how everyone is doing.

45 minutes going over message with discussion questions and life applications.

5-10 minutes praying for each other

Discussion Questions

Look over these questions before your group time. Write down your answers or ideas for at least a few questions if not all. You may not get to every question during your time but speak up if you want to talk about one of them in particular. Always try to start with question #1.

- 1) What stood out to you and/or what do you think God might be speaking about from this message?
- 2) How do you respond to test and trials?
 - a) Isolate, press in, complaining, etc.
- 3) What doesn't it mean for you during trials, that Jesus feels your pain? How does this help prospective of the trial?
- 4) Why is endurance needed and how can trials produce it?
- 5) What is the relationship between believing and obeying?