

**Title:** Not Unto Death

**Big Idea:** God's purpose is life, but dying is part of the process.

Death is the doorway to the resurrection power of Christ.

John 11:1 Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. **3** Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

If we want to know the resurrection power of God:

**1. Worship at His feet.**

**4** When Jesus heard *that*, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

**2. Seek God's glory.**

**5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

**3. Trust His love & His timing.**

**7** Then after this He said to *the* disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** *The* disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. **10** But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

**11** These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." **12** Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." **13** However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. **14** Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. **15** And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." **16** Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

**4. Follow Christ not fear.**

**17** So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. **19** And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

**20** Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. **21** Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

**23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. **26** And whoever lives and believes in

Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" **27** She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

## **5. Believe Christ is the Son of God.**

### **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. What does it practically look like to worship at the feet of Jesus in your daily life, and what agendas or control do you need to surrender there?
3. What should be our focus so we can move past the mindset of trusting God only when things go our way in our timeline?
4. How might viewing your current trials as opportunities for God's glory transform your perspective and or prayers?
5. Martha believed in a future resurrection but seemed to struggle with present faith. Where do you find it easier to trust God for: in the future or in daily circumstances? Why?
6. Which of the five points resonated with you the most? Why?