

Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream
April 12, 2020

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and small groups to use it. When we hear God's Word read and explained, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or small group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon using the Discussion Guide (see below). **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or small group.

Discussion Guide: The Real Jesus - Week 3 (EASTER SUNDAY)

Discussion Starter 1: When Pastor Sam spoke about the death of Lazarus, he made a statement about how we can apply this in our own lives. Sam said that we need to, "understand that God's delay is not God's denial." Share with your family or small group about a time when you had prayed to God for something, but nothing happened for a long time. What did God do to show you that His delay was not a denial of your need or desire?

Discussion Starter 2: In John 11, Martha continued to have faith even though Jesus did not do what she wanted when she wanted it to be done. She said, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died. But even now I know what ever you ask of God, God will give you." How have God's delays caused your faith to be shaken? Why do you believe even when it goes against human reasoning? Talk about how Jesus' love for us is not dependent on Him answering our prayers.

Self-Evaluation: Mary, Martha, and the Jews questioned Jesus and His motives and abilities because of Lazarus' death. When God does not deal with our circumstances in a way we want, we sometimes get bitter and broken and even reject God in some way. Sam talked about the fact that you may feel dead on the inside. You've lost faith and hope. You are dead in the delay, discouraged, and you have doubts. Trapped with no strength, you are in a grave of loneliness, brokenness, hopelessness, doubt, fear worry, anger, or depression." Do you believe in Jesus today? Will you trust Him fully? Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die." Do you believe? Is your hope and salvation totally resting in Jesus alone? Turn to Jesus and give your life totally to Him.

Going Deeper: Read John 11:1-44. Pastor Sam reminded us that although the resurrection a historical fact, it is not just an event. We are not to simply believe in an event, but in a person. In His delay, Jesus was revealing the greatness of God and His identity as "the Resurrection and the Life." Sam said, "Dead things don't stay dead when Resurrection walks into the room." Talk with your family or small group about who Jesus is and how He is able to bring life out of death in our salvation and in our Journey with Jesus.

Doing the Word: How can your family or small group live out the fact that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life? Consider the fact that you have family members, friends, and neighbors who are spiritually dead in their sin and separated from life with God. Will you stop, pray, and ask God to show you how to help entangle them from the grip of sin and the grave? The COVID-19 pandemic has caused people to be receptive to the good news of Jesus. Don't let the opportunity to share the message of Jesus pass you by? Jesus wants to bring life into situations that are hopeless and lives that are spiritually dead. Introduce people in your life to the One who conquered sin, death, and the grave and offers eternal life through faith in Him. Lead them to the one said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." What are some other ways you can put this message into practice this week?