

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Part 5 of Encounters

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Jesus revealed as the One who deeply cares – present in our pain, purposeful in the waiting, and powerful enough to bring life where there once was death.

The Purpose of His Care

1. The Relationship (*John 11:3, 5*)

- Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were deeply loved by Jesus, and their suffering did not change His affection for them.

Discuss:

- Have you ever struggled to believe God loved you during a difficult season? Why?

2. The Restraint (*John 11:6*)

- Even though Jesus loved them, He delayed coming. His waiting was not indifference, but intentional.

Discuss:

- How can trusting God's timing deepen your faith, even when you do not understand His delay?

3. The Revelation (*John 11:4*)

- Jesus declared that the situation would ultimately reveal the glory of God. What looked hopeless would become a testimony.

Discuss:

- How does believing God can work through suffering change your perspective during hardship?

The Presence of His Care

1. The Arrival (*John 11:17, 20*)

- Jesus eventually arrived in the middle of grief and disappointment, and Martha immediately went to meet Him.

Discuss:

- What does Martha's response teach us about bringing our pain honestly to Jesus?



2. The Assurance (*John 11:21–27*)

- Jesus reminded Martha that He Himself is “the resurrection and the life,” offering hope that went beyond her immediate circumstances.

Discuss:

- What situation in your life currently needs the hope and assurance of Jesus?

3. The Affection (*John 11:32–36*)

- Jesus wept alongside those who were grieving, revealing His compassion and closeness in suffering.

Discuss:

- How can knowing Jesus cares deeply about your pain change the way you walk through grief or disappointment?

The Power of His Care

1. The Stone (*John 11:38–40*)

- Jesus instructed them to remove the stone, even when it seemed uncomfortable and impossible.

Discuss:

- What does this story teach us about partnering with God in obedience before we see the miracle?

2. The Summons (*John 11:41–43*)

- Jesus called Lazarus out of the grave with authority and power, bringing life where there had been death.

Discuss:

- What areas of your life feel spiritually dry, hopeless, or lifeless right now?

3. The Strips (*John 11:44*)

- Although Lazarus was alive, he was still wrapped in grave clothes and needed help being unbound.

Discuss:

- How can Christian community help people walk in ongoing freedom and healing?

