

Read the Scripture (10 minutes)

Read **John 11:17–44** together.

As you read, notice:

- What Jesus says
 - What Jesus does
 - How Mary and Martha respond
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Brief Background (5 minutes)

By the time Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus had been dead four days. In Jewish tradition, four days meant all hope was gone. Mary and Martha believed Jesus could have prevented their brother's death, yet Jesus delayed intentionally to reveal both His glory and His heart.

The shortest verse in Scripture—"Jesus wept"—shows us that even though Jesus knew resurrection was coming, He still entered into the sorrow of those He loved.

Discussion Questions (25–35 minutes)

1. Martha tells Jesus,

"Lord, if You had been here..."

Have you ever had an "If only..." moment with God?

- What did you learn through that experience?
 - Why do you think God welcomes our honest questions?
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2. Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus.

Why do you think He still wept?

What does this teach us about God's heart?

3. The sermon reminds us that faith and grief can exist together.

Why is it important to know that we don't have to hide our emotions from God?

4. Jesus didn't rush Mary through her grief.

Instead, He entered into it.

How can we better care for people who are hurting?

When is simply being present more powerful than offering advice?

5. Read Hebrews 4:15.

How does knowing that Jesus understands our pain change the way we approach Him?

This Week's Challenge (5 minutes)

Choose one way to live out today's lesson:

- Reach out to someone who is hurting.
 - Spend time listening instead of trying to solve someone's problem.
 - Bring one of your own "if only" questions honestly to God in prayer.
 - Pray each day for someone walking through grief.
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Key Truth

Jesus doesn't merely solve our problems; He walks with us through them. His tears remind us that God is never distant from our pain, and His resurrection power reminds us that suffering never has the final word.

Closing Prayer (3–5 minutes)

Lord Jesus, thank You for being a Savior who not only has power over death but also compassion for those who mourn. Thank You for entering into our grief instead of standing far away. Help us trust You when we don't understand Your timing, and make us people who reflect Your love by being present with those who are hurting. May we carry the hope of Your resurrection while sharing the compassion of Your tears. In Your name we pray. Amen.



Small Group Study Guide

Jesus Wept

John 11:17–44

Theme: *Jesus reveals both His power over death and His compassion for those who grieve.*

Opening Prayer (2–3 minutes)

Lord Jesus, thank You for meeting us where we are. Open our hearts to Your Word today and help us experience both Your truth and Your compassion. Teach us to trust You and to love others as You have loved us. Amen.
