



For the Week of July 8, 2012

Good Questions, Straight Answers  
good news: Jesus, the resurrection and the life

Life Notes for Families

## Introductions

We hope you're having a great time learning about Jesus together as a family. Whether you have lots of family members or just a few spending time together, we pray you're having fun and noticing the difference that living with Jesus - *together* - can make. We all have our own relationships with God, but we also share a relationship with those we love. Thanks for helping grow this important relationship!

## John 11:1-46

This week's sermon introduces us to a family who are very close and who go through a very difficult situation. The good news is that they don't have to face this situation alone - God is with them, loving them and helping them each step of the way. Here's the story:

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.

Word came to Jesus from the sisters: *"Lord, the one you love is sick."*

Jesus: *"This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."*

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Jesus (to his disciples): *"Let us go back to Judea."*

Disciples: *"But Rabbi, a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"*

Jesus: *"Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."*

Disciples: *"Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."*

Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

Jesus: *"Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."*

Thomas (to the rest of the disciples): *"Let us also go, that we may die with him."*

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

Martha: *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."*

Jesus: *"Your brother will rise again."*

Martha: *"I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

Jesus: *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

Martha: *"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."*

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside.

Martha: *"The Teacher is here and is asking for you."*

When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet.

Mary: *"Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."*

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.

Jesus: *"Where have you laid him?"*

Those with Mary: *"Come and see, Lord."*

Jesus wept.

Jews: *"See how he loved him!"*

Some of the Jews: *"Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"*

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

Jesus: *"Take away the stone."*

Martha: *"But, Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."*

Jesus: *"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"*

So they took away the stone.

Jesus (looking up): *"Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."*

When he had said this, Jesus called out in a loud voice,

Jesus (in a loud voice): *"Lazarus, come out!"*

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus: *"Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.

## God's way...or my way

This week's story makes a great drama. So go back to the passage, assign family members a part, and read the story together. For the dramatic effect, get props and make this story come to life. (Hint: if you've never done so before, do the story again high speed and then do it in sloooow moooootion. Varying the pace and having some fun will keep the story in people's minds.)

Respond to the following questions (and any others that arise) when you're done with your production.

*What do you think Mary, Martha and Lazarus would have wanted Jesus to do when Lazarus first became sick?*

*Why didn't Jesus heal him right away?*

*What do you think was the hardest part about having faith for Mary and for Martha when Jesus didn't do what they wanted him to do?*

*What's one thing you remember wanting Jesus to do...but he didn't do? How did that make you feel? Did you see any good from the situation during the experience or after it was over?*

For the remainder of the week, we have a suggestion: moms and dads, you'll need slips of paper and a hat...or a basket to put them in.

Write on each slip of paper a situation that represents something we might encounter living in this world. During the week, let each person in the family take turns drawing a piece of paper out of the container. That person then reads the scenario and talks about how he or she might feel and want to react versus how she or he thinks God would want us to react. You can even model the discussion with each other. And moms or dads, you take turns too.

Here are some examples...but trust your own ideas - you'll think of things more appropriate to your family's ages and experiences.

- Your best friend says something mean about you and you hear it from someone else.
- You lose your favorite toy.
- You make a really bad grade on a test.
- A friend or someone you love rejects you.
- You lose your job.
- You fall and hurt yourself...and it really hurts.
- Someone you love moves far away.
- A friend asks you to do something you know isn't right, but you're torn between doing what is right and feeling accepted.
- Someone criticizes you publicly.