



## SESSION EIGHT

JESUS RAISES LAZARUS

### YES&NO

1. I love going to funerals!
2. If I died this week, it's okay. All of my affairs are in order.
3. God is silent more often than He speaks.
4. If you are a Christian, God will form a hedge of protection around your home.
5. Most often, in my life, God's timing has not made a whole lot of sense.

### DIG DEEP

#### A PROBLEM AROSE IN THE HOUSE:

##### • READ John 11:1-3.

» From these verses, what can we know about Mary, Martha & Lazarus?

-Whenever Jesus was in Bethany, this is the home where Jesus felt the most comfortable in. This was his "home-away-from-home."

∞ Why do you think Jesus allows bad things to happen in believers' homes?

∞ Mary worshiped at Jesus' feet. Why doesn't Jesus protect worshipers from tragedies?

#### JESUS LOVED THEM, SO HE WAITED UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE:

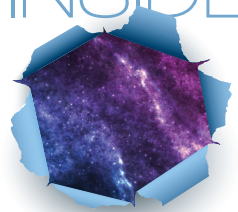
##### • READ John 11:4-7.

» Now this seems to be quite a contradiction. You'd think that if Jesus loved somebody, he would drop everything and run to help them out. But this scripture plainly says that he loved them, SO he took his time getting to them. He purposely took longer to get to them. Jesus gets word of their desperate need, and he tells his disciples, "Hey, let's go goof off! I'm needed over there, but because I love them, I'm going to stay back over here."

- Jesus chose to not answer this request in time. What has your experience been like when you asked God to help, but He did not do what you asked for? What faith struggle did you have to endure?

- Jesus said that this kind of action would glorify the Son of God. What do you think he was talking about?

## THE MESSAGE INSIDE



## THE MIRACLES

### INFO-DOODLES

EXAMPLE:



I'M READY TO DIE:



I AM A PATIENT PERSON:

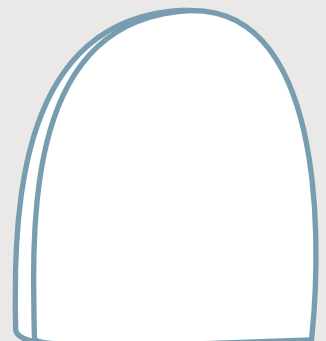


GOD MAKES ME WAIT OFTEN:



DRAW A COMIC OF WHEN GOD ANSWERED YOUR PRAYER:

WHAT EPITAPH WOULD YOU LIKE WRITTEN ON YOUR TOMBSTONE?



**JESUS' COUNTER-INTUITIVE BEHAVIOR:****• READ John 11:17-27.**

» Jesus did not make it to the house. He didn't even make the funeral. He didn't even make the graveside service. By the time Jesus got there, Lazarus had been dead four days.

- What was Jesus trying to say by waiting four days? What explanations have you heard?
- Have you ever gone through something with the Lord, and you just couldn't figure Him out?

**TAKE ME TO THE SPOT:****• READ John 11:32-39.**

» Jesus asks Mary to take him to the spot where Lazarus had been laid. In what ways does God take us back to the spot where we gave up and lost faith? Why does He do that?

» Martha's concern is that if they roll the stone away it will release a really bad odor. You know, sometimes when your problems are stinking real bad, you don't want to show Jesus just how bad it is. When you've been abused and misused, and you're in pain, perhaps you've got anger and frustration, sometimes you don't even want God to see how hurt you really are. How does Jesus respond to the stink?

**JUST TALKING OUT LOUD HERE:****• READ John 11:40-44.**

» Jesus makes a public declaration that he is speaking out loud for the benefit of the people standing there. That means, if he wanted to, he could have THOUGHT Lazarus out of the grave. Why do you think that Jesus stayed outside of the tomb and spoke Lazarus out, instead of touching the corpse like he had done in the past?

° What does this story tell you about the character of God?

**EMBRACE LIFE****TALK WITH GOD THIS WEEK ABOUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. How can I better handle the silence of God?
2. What still does not make sense, and what does God need me to know in order to deal with this?
3. What new thing does God need me to know about His character this week?