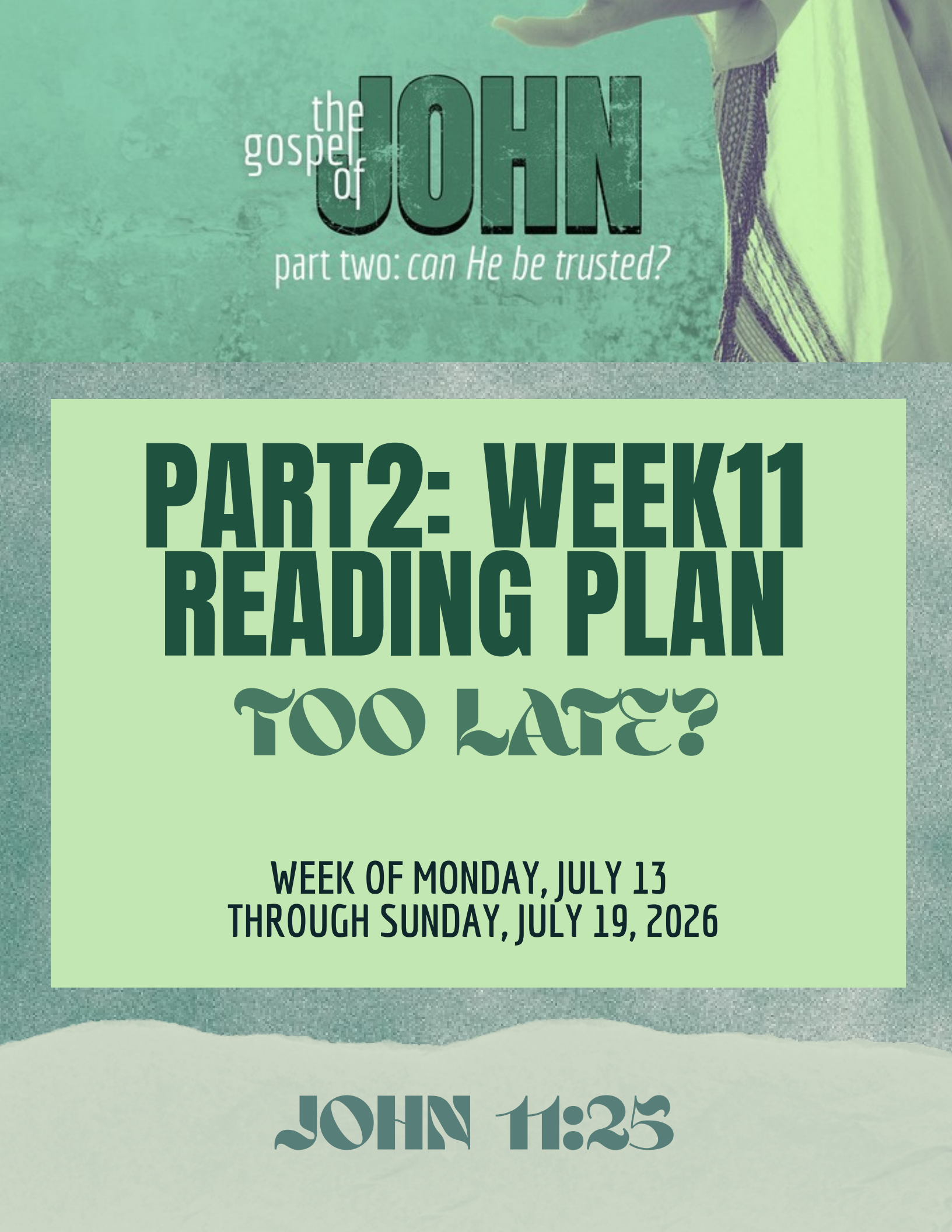




the
gospel
of

JOHN

part two: *can He be trusted?*

PART 2: WEEK 11 READING PLAN

TOO LATE?

WEEK OF MONDAY, JULY 13
THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

JOHN 11:25

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON AND MEMORIZE THIS WEEK

*“I am the resurrection
and the life. The one
who believes in me will
live, even though they
die.”*

JOHN 11:25

Spend a few minutes each day reading this verse slowly. Let the words move from information to formation. Ask the Lord to reveal where you have been feeding your soul with temporary bread, and invite Him to satisfy the hunger only He can meet.

PART 2 WEEK 11 READING PLAN



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can He be trusted?

WEEKLY SUMMARY

WEEK OF MONDAY, JULY 13 THROUGH SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

TOO LATE?

John 11 brings us to the edge of a tomb. Lazarus is sick. Mary and Martha send word to Jesus. Their message is brief but full of trust: "Lord, the one you love is sick." They do not appeal to Lazarus' worthiness, usefulness, or devotion. They appeal to Jesus' love.

Then Jesus waits. Jesus loves them, yet He does not arrive when they expect Him to arrive. His delay becomes the place where their grief deepens, their disappointment becomes honest, and their expectations are tested.

By the time Jesus reaches Bethany, Lazarus has been in the tomb four days. The prayers have already gone unanswered in the way the sisters hoped. The funeral has already happened. The stone has already been rolled into place. Their faith has not disappeared, but disappointment has lowered what they expect.

Jesus meets them there.

He does not dismiss Martha's questions. He does not avoid Mary's tears. He does not stand outside human grief as though sorrow were beneath Him. He enters it. He weeps. He asks for the stone to be moved. Then He speaks life into the place everyone else has already called dead.

John 11 teaches us to trust the character of Jesus when His timing is delayed. His delay is not the absence of His love. His tears reveal that He shares in our grief. His voice reminds us that even the places we have buried are not beyond His authority.

This week, we will bring our disappointment before Jesus, examine the places where waiting has turned into hurt, and ask where He may still be speaking life.

JOHN 11:25

MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026

When Love Waits

READ

John 11:1–16; Psalm 13; Isaiah 55:8–9; Habakkuk 2:1–4

REFLECT

John writes one of the hardest sentences in the Gospel: “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.”

Love and delay are placed side by side. That is difficult because most of us measure love by speed. If someone loves us, we expect them to come quickly. If God loves us, we expect Him to act before the situation gets worse. Waiting can feel like distance. Silence can feel like absence. Delay can begin to sound like indifference.

Psalm 13 gives language to that ache: “How long, Lord?” That question is not unbelief. It is faith trying to breathe under the weight of waiting. Isaiah reminds us that God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours. That does not erase the pain of waiting, but it keeps us from assuming we can read the whole story from the middle of it.

Jesus’ timing wounds the expectations of Mary and Martha before it reveals His glory. That is not easy to accept. John 11 does not give us a formula for handling delays. It shows us that the character of Jesus can be trusted. He loved them even though He kept them waiting. He showed the depth of His love for them when he shared in their grief with tears.

Just because they had to wait did not mean God’s love had left them.

QUESTIONS

- Where has my waiting turned into hurt?
- Where have I quietly assumed that if Jesus loved me, He would have acted sooner?

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2026

The Pain of Lowered Expectations

READ

John 11:17–24; Psalm 77; Lamentations 3:19–26; Romans 8:18–25

REFLECT

Martha's first words to Jesus are full of faith and pain: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

That sentence carries the ache of lowered expectations. Martha still believes Jesus has power. She still honors Him. She still comes to Him. Yet something has shifted. She knows what Jesus could have done, and she is standing in the grief of what He did not do.

Disappointment often works this way. It rarely destroys faith all at once. It slowly lowers expectations. We keep believing God exists, but we stop expecting Him to come near. We keep praying, but with less hope. We keep worshiping, but parts of the heart remain guarded. We learn how to function with a stone in front of the tomb.

Christian hope is not the denial of sorrow. It is the refusal to let sorrow become the final interpreter of God's character.

Martha's disappointment brings her to Jesus. She does not understand His timing, but she keeps the conversation open. That may be the beginning of renewed expectation: saying out loud to Jesus the things we have been afraid to pray.

QUESTIONS

- Where has disappointment lowered my expectations?
- What sentence do I need to say honestly to Jesus instead of hiding it behind religious language?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2026

The Resurrection is Here

READ

John 11:20-27; Job 19:23-27; Daniel 12:1-3; Colossians 1:15-20

REFLECT

Martha believes in resurrection. She tells Jesus, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

That was no small faith. Many faithful Jews believed God would raise the dead at the end of history. Martha has a sturdy theology of the future. She believes the last day belongs to God.

Jesus draws the future into the present when he says, "I am the resurrection and the life." Before He raises Lazarus, Jesus reveals Himself. He does not begin by explaining the delay. He does not answer every question grief has raised. He gives Martha the deepest truth in the chapter: resurrection is not only an event on God's calendar. Resurrection is a person standing in front of her.

This means our hope is not finally located in a changed circumstance. Our hope is located in Christ Himself. He may change the circumstances. He may call Lazarus out. He may restore what seemed lost. Yet even before the stone moves, Jesus is already at work.

This is why His character can be trusted when His timing does not make sense. The One who stands before the tomb is not guessing. He is not helpless. He is not late in the way we mean late. He is the Resurrection and the Life.

QUESTIONS

- Am I asking Jesus only for an outcome, or am I learning to trust Him regardless of how He chooses to act on my behalf?
- What would it mean to believe Jesus is present before anything changes?

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2026

The God Who Weeps

READ

John 11:28–37; Psalm 34:15–18; Isaiah 53:3–5; Hebrews 4:14–16

REFLECT

Mary falls at Jesus' feet with the same sentence Martha spoke: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Jesus sees her weeping. He sees the mourners weeping. John tells us He is deeply moved and troubled. Then comes the shortest verse many of us learned as children and one of the deepest windows into the heart of God: "Jesus wept."

He knows Lazarus will live again, and still He weeps. That single fact corrects shallow views of faith. Hope does not make grief unnecessary. Resurrection does not make death acceptable. Jesus does not treat sorrow as an overreaction. He enters the grief of those He loves.

Psalm 34 says the Lord is near to the brokenhearted. Isaiah 53 calls the Servant a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Hebrews tells us we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness. The tears of Jesus are not an interruption in the story. They reveal the character of the Savior.

Jesus does not share our grief because He lacks power. He shares it because He loves. The One who will command the dead also stands with the grieving. The voice that will shake the tomb first trembles with tears.

That means you do not have to choose between faith and honesty. You can bring your grief to Jesus without cleaning it up first. You can worship with tears in your eyes. You can believe in resurrection while still mourning what death has taken.

QUESTIONS

- What would change if I learned to trust Jesus with my biggest disappointments?
- Where have I assumed my grief makes me less faithful?

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2026

Move the Stone

READ

John 11:38–40; Ezekiel 37:1–14; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 1:8–11

REFLECT

Jesus comes to the tomb and says, “Take away the stone.” Martha objects. Her response is painfully reasonable: “But, Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

That is the voice of someone who knows the facts. Lazarus is not merely sick. He is dead. The tomb has been sealed. The body has begun to decay. Martha is not lacking realism. She is telling the truth about what is behind the stone.

Many of us have stones like that. Places we have sealed because they hurt too much. Hopes we stopped naming. Failures we learned to manage. Family wounds we decided would never change. Addictions we renamed as personality. Shame we buried so deeply that even prayer feels dangerous there.

Jesus does not ask Martha to pretend the odor is not real. He asks for the stone to be moved. The stone is not stronger than Jesus. Still, Jesus involves people in moving it. That is a mystery of grace. God alone gives life, but He often asks us to participate in the opening.

A confession may move a stone. A phone call may move a stone. Counseling may move a stone. Repentance may move a stone. Forgiveness may move a stone. Asking for help may move a stone. Coming back to prayer may move a stone. The miracle belongs to Jesus. The obedience may begin with your hands on the stone.

QUESTIONS

- What feels buried beyond the reach of Jesus?
- What stone might Jesus be asking me to move?

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2026

The Voice that Gives Life

READ

John 11:41-44; Gen 1:1-5; Isaiah 43:1-7; Rom 4:17-25; 1 Thess 4:13-18

REFLECT

Jesus cries out with a loud voice: "Lazarus, come out!" The voice of Jesus reaches where human hands cannot. It crosses the boundary between life and death. It enters the tomb. It calls a dead man by name.

This is not magic. It is authority. The same God who speaks light into darkness in Genesis now stands before a tomb and speaks life into death. The miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead in John 11 is a sign pointing beyond Bethany. Lazarus will come out of the tomb, but one day he will die again. Jesus' own resurrection will be different. He will rise never to die again. Lazarus is a signpost pointing us to Jesus' resurrection.

The sign matters, though, because it shows us that the voice of Christ has authority in places we have already called finished. There are moments when the most faithful thing we can do is listen for His voice again. Not the voice of accusation. Not the voice of despair. Not the voice that says nothing can change. The voice of Christ.

His voice does not always call circumstances back to what they were. Sometimes He calls us into a life we did not know was possible after loss. Sometimes He calls courage out of fear, repentance out of hiding, faith out of disappointment, tenderness out of bitterness, and hope out of a heart that had stopped expecting anything good.

QUESTIONS

- What would it look like to listen for the voice of Jesus in the place I have called finished?
- Where do I need to believe that His voice is stronger than my verdict?

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2026

Grave Clothes

READ

John 11:44–57; Romans 6:1–11; Colossians 3:1–17; Revelation 21:1–5

REFLECT

Lazarus comes out of the grave alive, but still wrapped in grave clothes. Jesus brings him back to life, then tells the community around him, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” The miracle is complete, but Lazarus still needs help walking in freedom.

This is a picture of discipleship after resurrection life begins. Jesus saves. Jesus raises. Jesus calls us out. Yet many of us still carry the wrappings of the tomb: old habits, old fears, old labels, old defenses, old shame, old ways of surviving.

John 11 also turns toward the cross. The raising of Lazarus intensifies the hostility against Jesus. The One who gives life to Lazarus will soon lay down His own life. The sign at Bethany points toward the greater resurrection still to come. That is why the story cannot be reduced to encouragement. It is gospel. Jesus enters the place of death, calls life by name, and begins the journey toward His own tomb. He will defeat death from the inside.

The Christian life is lived between Lazarus’ tomb and the empty tomb of Jesus. We have tasted resurrection life, but we still await the day when all grave clothes are gone forever.

Until then, we trust His character. When His timing does not make sense, we trust His character. When grief is honest, we trust His character. When something feels buried beyond reach, we trust His character. The Resurrection and the Life is still speaking and will ultimately have the final word.

QUESTIONS

- What grave clothes may need to come off as I learn to live in the life Jesus gives?
- Who can help me walk in the freedom Christ has made possible?