



## Sermon Discussion Guide

March 22, 2026  
John 11:17–27, 38–45

### 1. Read John 11:17–27, 38–45

- In your own words, what happens in this story?
- What details especially caught your attention?

Optional (for kids):

Have someone act as a “news reporter” and interview “Mary,” “Martha,” and a “bystander” about what happened.

### 2. The Struggle of Waiting

The sermon began with examples of hard waiting—health answers, relationships, money, clarity from God—and it *feeling* like Jesus is absent.

Discuss:

1. What is one thing you are waiting for right now (big or small)?
2. How does waiting usually make you feel? (e.g., anxious, angry, numb, hopeful)
3. Have you ever felt like Mary and Martha—“Lord, if you had been here, this wouldn’t have happened”? What happened, and how did you respond?

### 3. Jesus “Late” on Purpose

Jesus stayed where he was, Lazarus died, and he arrived four days after he died.

Discuss:

1. Why do you think Mary and Martha sent for Jesus? What did they expect him to do?
2. Read John 11:21 and 32. Why is it important that both sisters say the same thing?
3. Jesus told his disciples, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe” (vv.14–15).
  - Why might Jesus say he was *glad* he wasn’t there?
  - What does that tell us about his purpose in allowing waiting and even loss?

Connect:

Where in your life does it feel like Jesus is “four days late”? What might he be doing *beneath* what you can see?

### 4. “I Am the Resurrection and the Life”

Martha says, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” She is thinking someday. Jesus responds with today: “I am the resurrection and the life...”

Discuss:

1. What’s the difference between:
  - “Jesus will give resurrection someday” and “Jesus *is* the resurrection and the life”?

2. How does believing in Jesus change what death means for us?

3. The sermon said:

- Happiness = an emotion that goes up and down.
- Joy = a state of being that can exist even in pain.  
How can Jesus' words in John 11:25–26 give us joy even when we are not “happy”?

Optional Cross-Reference: Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 and discuss how Christian grieving is different.

## 5. Power Over Death – Then and Now

Jesus raises Lazarus to show his power over death and to set in motion his own death and resurrection.

Discuss:

1. Why is raising Lazarus *more* than just a comfort for Mary and Martha?
2. The sermon said this miracle helped lead to Good Friday. How are Lazarus' story and Jesus' cross connected?
3. How does Jesus' own resurrection confirm his words, “I am the resurrection and the life”?

Personal:

How does Jesus' victory over death change:

- The way you think about your own death?
- The way you think about loved ones who have died in Christ?

## 6. Waiting With Confidence, Not Despair

The sermon used the Andes plane crash story:

Before rescue was found: waiting with fear and uncertainty.

After help was contacted: still waiting—but now with confidence.

Discuss:

1. According to the sermon, what changed for the survivors: their circumstances or their *waiting*?
2. How is that a picture of the Christian life?
3. Fill in the blank:
  - “Because Jesus is the resurrection and the life, I can wait for \_\_\_\_\_ with confidence.”

## 7. Joy Check

At the end of a day this week, ask:

- “Where did I feel happy or unhappy today?”
- “Where did I still see joy because of Jesus, even if the day was hard?”

## 8. Closing Prayer

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**