

Discussion questions – March 22 - John 11:7-20 – we carry on with the resurrection of Lazarus story...

1. IF WE ARE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK AND IF WE ARE TRULY GROWING IN OUR DESIRE TO KNOW GOD - How has God's Word impacted your life this week?
2. How is everyone doing this week? Any new challenges? How have they seen God at work? (make this a regular feature, nothing encourages like reports of what God is doing in our lives.)
3. Any follow up or carry over from our last lesson?
4. What one point resonated with you from the lesson this morning? What stands out the most to you from this lesson?  
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5. \*\*\*Remind your group to begin thinking about Resurrection-Easter Sunday (April 5) and who they might invite – starting this Sunday begin praying each Sunday for this special morning. We will be looking at John 11 that morning and the resurrection of Lazarus.
6. Think back to a time when you called out to the Lord, you prayed for some specific need, some divine intervention; and there was only silence. Do you remember how you felt? How you responded? What do you think you learned from that experience? What do you think Mary & Martha (maybe even Lazarus) were thinking when it became obvious that Jesus was not coming in time?
7. When is the last time you encountered the death of someone you loved. Why is it comforting to think of the death of a believer as sleep? What has helped you to deal with death openly and honestly? Why do we generally avoid talking about death? As believers in the Lord Jesus shouldn't our view of death be different? If so, how?
8. Jesus' parabolic words in vs. 9-10 speak to how we use our time – what's your main take away from what Jesus said? (His words indicate that there is an appointed time to work, to steward our time and resources; it also reminds us that our times are in God's hands, our days are numbered. We need not live with any sense of fear of a premature death, God is sovereign over all)
9. What is behind Jesus' shocking words, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there"? Does this comment provide any insight for us when we are going through a trying and difficult time? (Jesus is always concerned that his children are growing in all of the circumstances of life; the disciples are about to learn some valuable life lessons)
10. How would you characterize Thomas's response in verse 16? Do you think we've been too hard on Thomas? Why or why not? (remember once he saw Jesus' hands and side he made the strongest declaration in the New Testament, "my Lord and my God"!) Do you think we might be less critical of someone like Martha or Thomas if we asked ourselves, "how do you want people to think of you, by your failures or by your successes"? I think we all know the answer...

What we take away... When we're struggling in our suffering and doubts begin to grow, look again to the cross and see the greatness of God's love.