

Resurrection and Life

John 11

CONNECTING

1. Welcome and opening prayer.
2. Introduce any guests.
3. How do people satisfy their hungers and thirsts in life?



LOVING ONE ANOTHER (Deepening Spiritual Growth)



1. Why do you think John stresses Jesus' love for Lazarus and his sisters in this account (11:3, 5, 36)?
2. Despite His love for Lazarus, why doesn't Jesus go immediately when He learns of the sickness (11:4-6, 14-15, 25-26, 41-42)?
3.
 - a. Jesus' disciples warn Him that going to Bethany, less than two miles from Jerusalem, is highly dangerous (11:8). What is the point Jesus' makes in response (11:9-10)?
 - b. What does Jesus' response tell you about His character and priorities (11:9-11)?
 - c. How is this relevant to your circumstances?
3. The raising of Lazarus is the last and greatest of Jesus' signs before His own resurrection. What does it reveal about . . .

Jesus' (and the Father's) character, personality, and values (see especially 11:14-15, 25-26, 33-35, 40-42)?

Jesus' mission?

Jesus' identity (see especially 11:25-27, 41-44)?
4. What implications does this event have for Mary, Martha, and you (11:25-27, 40-42)?

The Romans will come (11:48). Popular disorder was one thing the Romans did not tolerate in their provinces, and Judea was already seething with discontent ready to explode. The Roman authorities were on edge to stamp out any spark of revolt. If Jesus rallied the crowds with a claim to kingship, the Romans would act. They would destroy the Jews' holy *place*—the Temple, or perhaps the city—and might even massacre and deport the population. Ironically, this is exactly what happened in 70 AD after the Jews revolted from Rome. Killing Jesus did not prevent it.

High priest that year (11:49). The high priesthood was supposed to be a lifelong office. However, the Romans had claimed the right to depose and appoint high priests, and they did so fairly often. ***Caiaphas*** was the official high priest from 18 to 36 AD. Nevertheless, many Jews did not fully accept Rome's right to supersede God's Law. They

continued to regard Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas, as, the true high priest because he had held office until the Romans replaced him in 15 AD, and he was still alive (18:13).

Ephraim (11:54). If most archaeologists are right, this village was about twelve miles northeast of Jerusalem-not very far away, but in a lonely, mountainous place on the edge of the desert.⁹²

Ceremonial cleansing (11:55). "Ceremonial defilement disqualified a man from keeping the Passover [Leviticus 7:21; Numbers 9:6]. Depending on what was involved the rites for purification might last as long as a week so that, with large numbers involved, it might be well to come to the city early."⁹³

5. Observe how the Jewish leaders reacted to the news of the stupendous miracle in Bethany (11:45-48). What was wrong with their values and their approach to the facts?
7.
 - a. What do you think Caiaphas, meant in 11:50?
 - b. What deeper meaning does John discern in Caiaphas's words (11:51-52)?
9. What one truth from 11:1-57 would you like to take to heart this week?

SEEKING GOD (Drawing Near to God)



1. Conversational prayer is a very effective way to pray in a small group. It is a prayer that unites people in conversation with God and with each other. Like normal conversations, anyone can speak (pray) as many times as they wish and several people will often pray in agreement for the same request. (Begin your time by praising God for who He is and what He has done.)
2. Consider praying an application prayer, "Lord, help me to do _____(what you have show me during this study)?"

SHARING CHRIST (Declaring the Good News)



1. During the past month, how have you sought to build relationships with those on your Prayer, Care and Share in order to direct them toward a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?
2. What activities might we do as a group or with another ministry of our church in order to reach out to our unsaved friends?

SERVING OTHERS (Demonstrating God's Love)



1. God has called us to serve one another within the church and together to serve those within the community. What effect does it have when Christians demonstrate God's love through simple but tangible acts of service to those who do not yet know Jesus Christ personally?
 - o Volunteer for 2nd Harvest Food Distribution, Friday, March 22th. Call Dean Van Der Werf at 763-561-0146, email derwerf@comcast.net or sign-up online www.brooklynparkchurch.org/2harvest.