

April 7, 2019
John 11 – Application Questions

1. The name “Lazarus” likely comes from the Hebrew name, “Eleazar,” which means *God assists*. God assisted (helped) Mary, Martha and their brother, Lazarus, in a way they didn’t expect. **Has God ever helped you in a way (or through a way such as learning from our mistakes, learning to trust God in difficult seasons, or finding your purpose after enduring a loss) that you didn’t expect?**
2. When Mary and Martha asked for Jesus’ help, he initially gives them a very spiritual answer but doesn’t give them what they ask for. **Do you think it can be frustrating when people face problems such as job loss, cancer, a child gripped by addiction or an impending divorce and we give them “spiritual sounding” answers such as “God will get you through this” or “We’re praying for you” – but they’re still left with their problem? Explain.**
3. **Let’s make a list of the worst things to say or do when others go through painful times.**

4. **Let’s list some helpful things to say or do.**

5. Jesus explained that Lazarus’ sickness “is for God’s glory.” **How has God been glorified (shown to be powerful, mighty, loving) through some of your painful or difficult experiences?**
6. Jesus decided to wait two days to visit his dying friend Lazarus. This seems odd. We would immediately run to the aid of a close friend if they were facing death. **How do we get to a place of spiritual maturity where we decide to trust Jesus’ plan, even if it doesn’t make sense to us?**
7. **Has this happened to you – you read a passage of Scripture that either didn’t make sense to you or that you honestly didn’t even like (i.e. turning the other cheek, tithing, forgiving a person who hurt you, etc.), but decided to obey because you trusted what the Bible teaches? What happened as a result (good or bad)?**
8. Lazarus dies but Jesus tells Martha that her brother will “rise again.” Martha misunderstands and thinks Jesus is telling her, “Don’t worry. Your brother will be in heaven one day. He’ll live again.” She doesn’t receive much comfort from this. At times we’ve presented the Gospel purely as, “If you accept Jesus, one day when you die, you’ll get to go to heaven.” **How can this approach weaken the Gospel message? Do you think that approach works for many non-Christians today?**
9. When Jesus saw Mary weeping over her brother’s death, the passage describes Jesus as “deeply moved and troubled.” In fact, Jesus cried. It’s not entirely clear what Jesus was weeping over. **What are your thoughts?**
10. **What moves you to tears?**
11. **What core truths do you think parents need to teach their children about the love of God and the presence of suffering in our world (example: The PRESENCE of suffering does not equal the ABSENCE of God)?**
12. Jesus restored Lazarus to life after he had been dead for a few days. The situation appeared hopeless. **At what point do problems or challenges become hopeless?**
13. **What’s your biggest, most hopeless need right now? Can we pray for you?**