

When God...

Key Text: John 11:1–45

Icebreaker: Talk about a time when you were late arriving where you were expected.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read verses 11–14. React to the idea that Jesus allowed Lazarus to die so that his disciples could see God’s glory and believe.
2. Has a painful circumstance ever caused you to question God’s love for you? Explain.
3. How might the idea that God leverages your pain for His glory give you hope during a difficult circumstance?
4. Jesus’ late arrival resulted in Lazarus’ death, plus great suffering for Mary and Martha. How can Jesus’ resurrection of Lazarus give us hope when we suffer loss and God offers no obvious miracles?
5. Read John 11:35. How does knowing that God isn’t too big or too distant to understand your pain change your perspective on suffering?

Next Steps:

When God late in addressing your problems or answering your prayers, it can be difficult to know how to continue on in faith. But the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead offers a picture of hope in the midst of a hopeless situation. If you continue to trust God through your pain, he will eventually show you His glory. “...Do you believe this?” – Jesus in verse 26.

Prayer Requests:

