

LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Seven Signs of John Series

These questions are for the **November 12, 2023** message, "Raising Lazarus, Part 2." Please read the sermon passage (John 11:17-27) together out loud.

Passage Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE COMFORT CHRIST BRINGS TO HIS PEOPLE, NOTE . . .

1. The critical timing our Lord exhibits. (17-19)
 - a. Jesus delays his coming, to ensure that Lazarus has died.
 - i. He came after Lazarus died in order to reveal his power and his glory.
 - ii. Jesus not only has power over sickness, he has power over death itself.
 - b. In this power and this "sign," Jesus will reveal his glory.
2. The verbal assurance our Lord provides. (20-22)
 - a. Jesus allows Martha to speak about "if onlys."
 - b. Jesus comforts Martha: "Your brother will rise again."
 - i. Death does not have the final say over those who know Jesus. (Job 19:25-27)
 - ii. Death feels like the immovable enemy. But Christ moves that enemy.
 - c. "We are not in the land of the living trying to avoid going to the land of dying; we are in the land of the dying, making our way to the land of the living." (L Moody to P Azinger)
3. The personal claim our Lord makes. (23-26)
 - a. "I am the resurrection and the life." Those who believe in me will never die.
 - b. Jesus does not provide resurrection / life; he is resurrection / life.
 - c. "Do you believe this?"
4. The essential faith our Lord requires. (27)
 - a. Martha offers an incredibly mature faith: I believe that you are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God, the one that was to come into the world.
 - b. Martha believes that Jesus is the one and only resurrection and life.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Jesus sometimes waits until a very bad thing happens before coming close to us. Share about a time when God's delay brought you to say, "If only you had been here."
2. Based on #2, above: The reality of resurrection power, of God having complete authority over our worst enemy, makes his glory visible and attractive. How do these words of Jesus, "Your brother will rise again" impact your mindset, attitude, confidence, worry and hope?
3. Based on #3, above: Jesus is both the resurrection (victory over death) and life (the essence of our lives now and forever). He emphasizes that there is no other way. This statement is the crescendo of John's gospel. How has Jesus satisfied your search for meaning? How has he fulfilled your every longing?
4. Based on #4, above: We cannot produce spiritual life, but we can pray for it and urgently sow the seed of the good news. In what way are you becoming more urgent (or better?) about sharing Jesus, who is the only hope of resurrection and the only source of life?