

RECAP

As you reflect on last week's application, where did you find yourself persisting in prayer this week? Did you see any answers to prayer that you can praise God for?

IDEA 1

Read John 11:1-44 out loud together.

What are your initial thoughts or feelings about Jesus' decision to delay visiting Lazarus?

Whose response to Jesus can you most relate to in the story?

What do we think John wanted us to learn about Jesus through this?

IDEA 2

In this story John beautifully narrates for us our journey with Christ in places of uncertainty and loss of hope. Through the story of Lazarus, we see that in God's timing we are formed in three stages: *His delay, our desperation, and his future display.*

When have you experienced Jesus' "delay" in your own life? How did it feel to wait?

What do you believe is God's purpose in His delay?

In what ways do you think Jesus has used that "delay" to form you?

Where have you experienced God's intimacy in the desperation of waiting?

How do we allow the times God has come through for us to be seared both in our mind and soul?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Jesus was not quick to miraculously heal Lazarus but in fact met both sisters with empathy and a genuine presence through grief and sorrow.

Is there anyone in the group struggling to trust Jesus' timing in his delay?

Is there anyone who is desperate for God to act in their life or the life of someone else?

Is there anyone who is grieving the loss of expectations and hopes?

Take time to surround these people in prayer and presence.

APPLICATION

Think of someone in your life who is hurting or grieving in some way – and join them in *the wilderness as a fellow traveler*.

- ***Join the individual(s) in the wilderness as a fellow traveler.***
 - Resist the temptation to stand apart from the emotion and existential questions that they are wrestling with. Allow yourself to bear the weight of their grief.
- ***Identify the need of the moment.***
 - Listen and allow a space for individual(s) to talk through their experience.
- ***Offer manna.***
 - How can you make the love of Christ more present to them? Locate sources of strength and encouragement to reinforce them and build faith.