

**Life Group Leader Guide**  
***Believe and Be Changed***  
**John 11 — The Resurrection Right In Front of You**  
**Part 1: When God Doesn't Show Up**

## **Theme**

This passage invites us to wrestle honestly with what it feels like when God delays, disappoints our expectations, or seems absent.

## **Opening**

### **Icebreaker (choose one):**

Finish this sentence honestly (you don't have to explain if you don't want to):  
"If God really loved me, then \_\_\_\_\_."

### **Transition:**

John 11 begins not with resurrection, but with delay. This story speaks directly to seasons when God *could* act, but doesn't seem to.

## **Read the Passage**

Read **John 11:1–16** together.

Listen for:

- Expectations
- Emotions
- Confusion
- What Jesus says *about* the delay

## **Expectations & Assumptions**

***"If You Love Us, You'll Come Now."***

### **Key Idea:**

Mary and Martha pray in faith—but their expectations about *how* love should work shape their disappointment.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What assumptions do Mary and Martha make about Jesus' love?
2. Why do you think John emphasizes that *Jesus loved them* and still waited?
3. Can you think of a time when your prayer was sincere and faith-filled—but the answer didn't come the way you expected?

### **Insight:**

Faith does not guarantee outcomes; it forms trust.  
Faith positions us for God's will, not control over it.

## Passage vs. Destination

***“This illness does not lead to death.”***

### **Key Idea:**

Jesus reframes waiting, not as the end, but as a means through which God reveals Himself.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What does it mean to see suffering as a *passage* rather than a *destination*?
2. Why is it often harder to trust God *in the middle* than at the beginning or the end?
3. How does the question, “*Am I in a passage or a destination?*” change the way we pray?
4. What’s a passage that you have been through or are in now?

## Jesus’ Confusing Love

***Because I Love You, I Will Wait***

*Jesus’ delay is not indifference; it’s deeper care aimed at transformation.*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Parents often choose not to give kids what they want but instead give them what they need. How had God done that with you?
2. What’s the difference between our *immediate wants* and our *deepest needs*?
3. Why do unanswered prayers sometimes reveal what we value most?

## “For Your Sake”

***When God’s Glory and Our Good Collide***

*Jesus is not glad about Lazarus’ death, He is glad about what their faith is about to become.*

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do we often see God’s glory and our good as competing goals?
2. How does Jesus’ phrase “*for your sake*” reshape the way we interpret hardship?
3. What dangers arise when faith becomes transactional (“If I do this, God should do that”)?

### **Leader Insight:**

God’s glory is not achieved *at our expense*; it gives us more than we thought we needed.

## The Cross: Where Glory and Good Meet

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does the cross answer Mary and Martha's prayers in a deeper way?
2. Why does the cross help us trust God when His purposes feel costly?
3. What does it mean that the greatest good God gives us is *Himself*?

**Looking Ahead**

Next week: **"When God Shows Up"**

Jesus doesn't arrive late; He arrives *as resurrection itself*.

Read **John 11:17–44** in preparation.