

Life Group Homework

JOHN 11:1-16 – WHEN DIVINE DELAYS MATTER

Getting Started:

1. Share about a time in your life when you were longing for God to change your circumstances right away, but He instead kept you in those circumstances and you later discovered that His wisdom in delaying accomplished something good in your life.

2. How hard was it to trust in God during that time?

Digging In:

1. When Mary and Martha refer to Lazarus in verse three as “*he whom you love*” they use the word “phileo” for love, indicating that Lazarus was a dear friend. Jesus later affirms this when He refers to Lazarus as “*our friend*” (philos) in verse eleven. How might the close friendship have raised Mary and Martha’s expectations of Jesus coming to heal their brother?

2. Why would John want to point out that Jesus loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (vs. 5) right before informing us that Jesus remained where He was for two more days rather than rushing to take care of Lazarus?

3. Has God's delay in your own life ever made you feel as though He didn't love you?

4. While Mary and Martha had to trust Jesus to heal their brother, what must the disciples trust Jesus for when they accompany Him to Bethany? (See *verses 8 and 16*)

5. When Jesus says in verse fifteen that He rejoices that they were not there to save Lazarus, was His joy a mere intellectual joy or a true joyfulness? What was the source of His joy?

6. Read *James 1:2-4* and discuss how the joy Jesus had in this passage is similar to the joy James instructs us to have. How are they different?

Living It Out:

1. If you or someone you know finds themselves in difficult circumstances where they are needing to trust in the Lord, and especially in the Lord's timing, then share that with the group and have the group lift up that situation in prayer.