

# *Living the Word*

## A Bible Study for Missionary Discipleship

### Session 8

John 11:17-45

*“Lazarus Come out.”*



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# Living the Word

## Missionary Discipleship Bible Study

### Session 8

#### OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, create in us an ever-growing faith, with hearts open and centered in you. Awaken within us the fire of your Spirit, so that your love may fill us more fully, and flow throughout our lives. Increase within us a desire to reach out, to invite and to share, to welcome and accept. Awaken the faith of all your children, especially those who have grown distant from you, those ready to hear an invitation to the love you alone can bring. Awaken us, loving God, to see the fullness of your grace and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord . Amen

#### OPENING PSALM

(one person (or group) take line 1 and one person (or group) take line 2)

#### **Psalm 130:**

##### **Waiting for Divine Redemption**

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

2 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

1 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word, I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

2 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

#### OPENING REFLECTION VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jwKNSu5w-vU>

#### THIS WEEKS BIBLE PASSAGE

*“Untie him and let him go”*

John 11:17-45

### **Jesus the Resurrection and the Life**

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus<sup>[d]</sup> had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles<sup>[e]</sup> away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.<sup>[f]</sup> Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” <sup>27</sup> She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,<sup>[g]</sup> the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

### **Jesus Weeps**

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

### **Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life**

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

REFLECTION

Where is your faith in Jesus? Martha and Mary show two differing viewpoints. Martha runs to meet Jesus while Mary stayed at home.

Martha expresses her faith in Jesus declaring: *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.”*

Mary responds with: *“Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”* also, but how is her response different?

Jesus declares, *“He is the resurrection and the life,”* and Martha professes her faith in the present moment. “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Mary approaches faith in Jesus with a different disposition, she falls at the feet of Jesus weeping. Jesus is also moved to tears as he is overcome with grief. The Jewish audience fails to understand that his tears are related to the failure of them to see that he is the Messiah the Son of God.

#### PAUSE FOR SILENT PRAYER

Pray a decade of the Rosary reflecting on first Glorious Mystery: the Resurrection

(Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and Glory Be)

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What can we do to strengthen the faith of others?
2. What can we learn from the way Jesus prays to His Father?
3. Jesus commands Lazarus to “come out!” is there something in our life we need to let go of, to follow God more faithfully?

#### CALL TO ACTION

At the next funeral you attend (One of the Corporal works of Mercy) let family members know that you will pray for them as they move through the grieving process.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

### **Missionary Discipleship Prayer**

Leader: *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

*But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed?*

*And how can they believe in him of whom they have not heard?*

*And how can they hear without someone to preach?*

*And how can people preach unless they are sent? –Romans 10: 13-15*

All: Heavenly Father,

Pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire us with these words from Holy Scripture,  
so that we might be strengthened to go forth  
and witness to the Gospel in our daily lives  
through our words and actions.

In moments of hesitation, remind us:

- If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?
- If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?
- If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?

Give us the grace that we might hear the call of the New Evangelization  
and become a Missionary Disciple, deepening our faith,  
growing in confidence to proclaim the Gospel  
and boldly witnessing to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

O Mary, our Immaculate Mother, pray for us.  
Inspire us to imitate your example  
as the first disciple of your son, Jesus,  
who is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: *Mary, Star of the New Evangelization*, All: pray for us.

*St. Joseph*, All: pray for us.

*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, All: pray for us.

*St. John Paul II*, All: pray for us.