

*“Breakthrough!” in 2022*

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 12.18.2022

HOPE HAS A NAME -JOHN 11:1-44

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

John’s gospel revolves around seven specific signs or miracles that Jesus performed. These are by no means the only miracles that Jesus did; they are just the ones John chose to focus on. The miracle we’re going to look at today is the seventh one. We’ve already seen Jesus turn water into wine and heal a nobleman’s son and a lame man and feed a multitude and walk on the water and open the eyes of a blind man. Now we’re going to see Him perform what is without question His most impressive miracle as He raises a man from the dead. Jesus raised other people from the dead, but in each of those instances, the person had just recently passed away. What makes this miracle significant is that Lazarus had been dead for four days! Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. If you only had two weeks left to live, what is the one “bucket list” item you would be sure to complete?
3. Think about the opposite way. If you only had two weeks left to live, what is something you would wish you did more of?

We tend to ignore the fact that our days are numbered. But just because we don’t know when our lives will end doesn’t change the fact that we have a limited amount of time on this earth. Jesus, however, knew the circumstances of His death and because of this, He lived with a focused intensity. As He neared the end of His life, He proved that He alone has the power over life and death.

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

### ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 11:1-16

1. Who are "Lazarus," "Mary" and "Martha" (John 11:1)?
2. When did Mary anoint Jesus "with fragrant oil" and wipe "His feet with her hair" (John 11:2)?
3. What did Jesus do after He received the message about Lazarus? Does that surprise you? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever felt like Mary and Martha? Like you were waiting on Jesus to do something during a time of pain? How did you deal with those feelings?

The disciples were afraid when Christ said that he wanted to go to Judea again. They knew that the Jews would try again to kill Christ. Then Christ told the disciples that Lazarus was sick and He was going to wake Lazarus. Of course the disciples did not understand that Christ meant that Lazarus was dead. They thought that Lazarus was getting better if he was asleep. Then Christ told the disciples plainly that Lazarus was dead. By the time Christ reached Bethany, we will learn that Lazarus had already been dead four days. By the end of four days, a body begins to rot and smell. The other people that Christ had raised from the dead had only been dead for a few hours. Christ wanted to show the disciples that He had all power including the power to put a rotten body back together again.

### ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ JOHN 11:17-37

1. Do you think Martha’s first words to Jesus conveyed disappointment, criticism, or recognition of fact? How did Martha misunderstand Jesus’ response?

## **“Breakthrough!” in 2022**

Even though we know that eventually God is going to make all things right, it often doesn't help us in the moment of pain. In the moment of pain, good and right theological statements can often feel like trite clichés.

2. During a season of suffering for you, did anyone ever tell you something that was true, but that wasn't helpful at the moment? Why do you think Christians sometimes have the tendency to do that?
3. Why do you think Jesus asked Martha to believe in Him before He gave her a miraculous physical reason to believe?
4. What does Jesus' reaction to Mary reveal about the heart of God?

Jesus knows better than any of us just how broken the world is. When He is confronted with the suffering of the world, He isn't passive; He's angry. In fact, Jesus feels the pain of a broken world more deeply than we do.

5. What is the most powerful part of thinking about the weeping of Jesus?

Amazingly, Jesus, the Son of God, wept at the tomb. Though He knew that He was going to turn this funeral into a party, Jesus still weeps with His people. Wonderfully, we can know that Jesus offers us something more than trite clichés; He offers us His tears and emotional investment.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 10:38-44**

1. What shows us Lazarus was really dead? Why was it important for everyone there to know that Lazarus was truly dead?
2. How does this miracle show us the greater coming miracle of the cross and resurrection?

### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**We are all Lazarus. Lazarus was dead. So are we. The Bible says that before we met Christ, 'we were dead in our trespasses and sins.' Sin buries us. It makes a mummy out of us just like Lazarus. But then Jesus comes, and He calls us out by name. His word pierces our hearts, and we go from death to life and from darkness to light. He puts a new heart within us and gives us new desires and a new nature. He forgave us and set us free from sins power. Jesus is still calling people out of their grave. His word still holds power. He calls dead things to life and things that are not into being. He's calling you right now.**

**Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.**

1. What is one way you can follow the example of Jesus and be fully present in the moment with those you encounter? What kinds of things keep you from being present in the moment?
2. How does this passage change the way you view grief?
3. How does it change the way you view death?
4. How does it affect the way you would comfort someone in their loss?

**PRAYER** – Thank God that He is purposeful, present, and powerful in the world and in our lives. Ask Him for the wisdom to number your days, so that you might follow His example and approach life with similar intensity.

**"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." {Isaiah 55:8-9}**