



All Christians' Fellowship International

INTERACTIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

TOPIC: Resurrection & Life

TEXT: John 11:1-57

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Ever since God judged Adam and Eve, death has plagued humanity. separates us from those we love and looms over our own lives like a menacing spirit. In this chapter Jesus reaches out to a family struggling with the pain of death. He shows us why we need never fear death again.

Discussion Questions:

1. Think back to the death of a family member or friend. Did that death cause you to question God's love? Explain.
2. Read John 11:1-44. How can we resolve the seeming conflict between Jesus' love for Lazarus and his deliberate delay in helping him (v. 4-5)?
3. How can those verses help us when we feel abandoned by God in a time of great need?
4. What additional insight into God's purposes can we gain from Jesus' statement in v. 15?
5. What elements of doubt and faith do you see in Martha's statements to Jesus (v. 17-27)? - How does Jesus stretch Martha's faith in this brief encounter?
6. Jesus declares to Martha that "he who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (v. 25-26). What kind of "life" and "death" is Jesus referring to in each case? - How should Christ's statement radically alter our views of life and death?
7. Why do you think John emphasizes that Jesus was deeply moved by Mary's grief and the anguish of those with her (v. 28-38)?
8. Based on this passage, how would you respond to those who believe that grief is incompatible with real faith?

9. Read John 11:45-57. How would you explain the fact that the people who see the same miracle respond in two totally different ways?

10. What does this account reveal about the value of miracles for bringing people to faith in Christ?

11. In what ways will this chapter change the way you respond to personal difficulty or the apparent delay of God?