

# One Hope Community Church



## Book of John Small Group Study: Chapter 11

### How to effectively use this guide:

Always begin in prayer. Before opening your Bible, ask God to send His Holy Spirit to you and ask Him to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn.

Reflect on what you have read and take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures and provide discussion points for your meeting.

Each week, we suggest you hand out the next week's reading plan and questions (or show them where to find it online). This will help people be prepared to discuss the week's reading as a group.

Please remember to go over the agreement below as a small group each time a new person joins your group:

- We gather to grow in relationship with each other and God.
- We trust the Holy Spirit is our guide and the one who transforms our hearts.
- Our small group is an inviting place to discuss the Bible, share life, ask questions, and seek truth while we challenge and learn from each other.
- We commit to keep confidential all personal information shared during discussion and prayer time.
- We respect each other's backgrounds, and avoid negative discussions about politics and denomination differences. We will choose love over judgment.
- We commit to completing the personal study to the best of our ability as preparation, questions, and insights are a gift to the group.
- We listen, not fix. Fixing is God's job. We own our stories. It is okay to ask for help, but if not asked for, our job is to listen, support and pray.
- We will be brief with our answers so that all members have time to share.

Your group won't get through all these questions. Select which ones you find to be the most thought provoking. Or ask your small group which questions they would like to discuss.

### Meeting Agenda

Gather / Socialize / Catch Up

Worship: Praise the Lord - Micah Tyler

<https://youtu.be/7DXGozXsllg?si=-1DqhKyXw8XEA55x>

Read Scripture / Answer Questions / Closing prayer

## **Week #11 Reading Plan (December 31 - January 6)**

### **John 11**

Day 1: John 11:1-16

Day 2: John 11:17-27

Day 3: John 11:28-37

Day 4: John 11:38-44

Day 5: John 11:45-57

### **Day 1: John 11:1-16**

John 11:3 says that Mary and Martha sent a message to Jesus that “the one you love is sick.” Just as Jesus’s mother did at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-3), they stated a need but did not ask anything in particular of Jesus. They had faith that Jesus would reply. Jesus sent back a reply (in verse 4) but as it is a two day journey, the message would have been received after Lazarus had died.

1 John 4:9-10 says God loves us. That is personal. Take a moment. Close your eyes. Imagine that God is calling you “the one I love.” What does this make you think and feel?

We send messages to God through prayer. Jesus joins in our prayers and intercedes with the Father for us (Hebrews 7:25). The Holy Spirit residing in believers responds (John 14:26). Have you ever heard from God and thought “it’s too late” or “I don’t understand?” What do you think or do next?

Lazarus’s sickness - and death - Jesus said would be for God’s glory. Jesus loved Lazarus, yet verse 6 says He waited two more days to go see him. We know what happened next, but the disciples may have assumed correctly that Lazarus had died.

Just as we experience pain or hardship, so did those who knew Jesus in the flesh. Romans 8:28 says “God works all things together for those who love Him.” What in your life has God used for His glory?

Often how God works things out for us takes time and it seems He is silent. Yet His waiting is done in love for us. How do you respond when God seems silent or seems slow to answer you?

Bethany was hostile territory and going back from Thomas’s perspective would be a suicide mission (verse 16). Thomas (Hebrew) and Didymus (Greek) mean “a twin.” One commentary says “In him the twins, unbelief and faith, were contending with one another for mastery.”

Where in yourself do you notice a struggle between faith and unbelief?

## **Day 2: John 11:17-27**

In Luke 10:38-42 Martha opened up their home while Mary sat at Jesus's feet to learn. Martha was following tradition. In verse 40 it says she was "distracted" (the Greek word is periespato which has the connotation of being pulled in different directions). She was not truly present with Jesus. He said to Martha, "Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Tradition after a death had mourners at home for a week to mourn. This time when Martha heard Jesus was coming, she did not follow the tradition of staying home, she went out to meet Jesus. She engaged with Him, was present with Him. She was not pulled in different directions.

Martha's choice this time reflected her belief in what was better. How is your belief reflected in your choices?

Martha showed her faith when she said Lazarus would not have died had Jesus been there but also "even now God will give you whatever you ask." She again showed her faith when she said she believed Jesus was the Messiah.

How often do you use your words to show your faith in Jesus?

## **Day 3: John 11:28-37**

Martha went back and told Mary who also tried to slip out. This time people noticed and followed her. In Jewish culture future resurrection is affirmed and there is a belief that when a righteous person dies, the world suffers a loss. The people were grieving this loss with Mary and Martha.

When Jesus saw Mary and the other Jews weeping, He engaged them with a question (which He would have known the answer to) and He joined them in weeping.

How does Jesus's reaction show His humanity? How is He an example to us?

Romans 12:15 says, "Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep." Which is easier for you to do? How does each response show love to others?

Some of those with Mary and Martha noticed Jesus's love for them. Others questioned why Jesus had not kept Lazarus from dying.

We are not much different, sometimes seeing God's love or goodness and other times questioning why He does not do something He could do. What have you wanted God to do but He has not? Is it wrong to question God? How might questions lead to faith?

## **Day 4: John 11:38-44**

Read again Jesus's prayer in verses 41-42.

What do you learn about prayer from Jesus's conversation with His Father?

Jesus called Lazarus in a loud voice. Some tombs were deep and some included tunnels. Jesus ensured that Lazarus could physically hear him.

God continues to speak to us today. One way He ensures we hear is that when we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes and lives in us. What are some ways you know that the Holy Spirit is communicating with you?

“Lazarus,” is the Greek form of Eleazar which means “God is my help.” He lived in to his name.

Look up what your name means. How do you see God using the meaning of your name in your life?

### **Day 5: John 11:45-57**

When the Pharisees learned about Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, they did not consider IF Jesus was the Messiah. Instead they considered the earthly consequences of admitting that He was.

People do the same thing today. They consider the earthly consequences of admitting Jesus is the Messiah. What are some things people you know have been concerned with having to give up or change if they admit they believe?

Caiaphas said that it was better for one man to die than for all of them to die. He was concerned with Roman rule and silencing Jesus. The irony was that God was using Caiaphas to prophecy the truth: Jesus the Messiah would die (and rise again, conquering death) for Jews and Gentiles.

What do people GAIN when they admit they believe in Jesus as the Messiah?