

1. Describe a set of expectations you have had for a relationship (spouse, parent, child) that have ended up disappointing you. Looking back, were your expectations realistic? Why do you think that?
2. Read John 11:1-3. What kind of expectations did the sisters have for Jesus?
3. Read John 11:4-16. How does Jesus' timing conflict with the expectations of the sisters? What does the text indicate motivates Jesus' timing here (see vv5-6)? What are some of his purposes for the delay (see vv4, 11, 15)?
4. Read John 11:17-46. How do the disciples respond to Jesus going to Bethany? How do the sisters respond to Jesus at the death of their brother? What evidence of genuine faith is there from Thomas, Mary, and Martha?
5. Read John 11:25-26. What do these verses reveal about Jesus' purpose and invitation?
6. Read John 11:33-38. What kind of emotion does Jesus reflect? How might that be both sobering and encouraging at the same time?
7. Read John 11:38-44. What does Jesus do here? How does this demonstration affirm and confirm what he reveals in vv25-26?
8. How does the resurrection of Lazarus foreshadow what Jesus will do at Calvary? What should the disciples have gleaned from this experience?
9. Do you believe that Jesus died and rose again to save you from your sins? Take a moment to confess your belief and trust in him today!