

MAIN POINT

Jesus's authority over death gives believers eternal hope.

INTRODUCTION

How has your life been affected by the reality of death?

How have you seen God work in the difficulty of the reality of death?

Anyone who's experienced the death of a loved one knows how traumatic this can be—so much so that even the strongest Christian might find him or herself asking, "God, I don't understand this—why did this happen?" As Christians, we know we live in a fallen world, one where death comes to all. But knowing doesn't make it easier. Every time death comes, we're reminded of the brokenness of the world, and our hearts cry out. But as Christians, we can have hope. We serve the One who has power over life and death itself.

DISCUSSION

> READ JOHN 11:1-44.

If someone called you right now and said someone close to you was very sick, what would you do?

How is this different than what Jesus did here? Why did He do this?

Why do you think Jesus equated "sleep" with "death"?

Why did Jesus say He was glad they weren't present when Lazarus died? What did He want His disciples to learn from this event?

What stands out to you in Martha's response to Jesus's arrival? What about her words that tells us she trusted Jesus? How can you cultivate a trust like she had?

Why did Martha respond to Jesus's question about the resurrection by talking about "the resurrection on the last day"?

How do you react to Jesus's statement: "I am the resurrection"?

Why did Jesus weep? What does Jesus's example here tell us about mourning the reality of death, even with the present reality of the resurrection?

What proves Lazarus was really dead? How is this similar to the spiritual deadness all people are in before establishing a relationship with Christ? In what way do we all need a resurrection?

How can we maintain hope in God's goodness, sovereignty, and love, even when our situations aren't so dramatically resolved on earth? How is God glorified as we place our trust in Him?

APPLICATION

Where do you currently need to experience Jesus's resurrection power in your life? Ask Him for why you need and respond to Him with faith and obedience.