

### John 11:1-16

**John 11:1** Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. **3** So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." **4** When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." **5** Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days. **7** Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." **8** "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. **10** It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light." **11** After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." **12** His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." **13** Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. **14** So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, **15** and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

- 1) What was Jesus making reference to in verse 9-10 when he talked about "light" and "darkness"? (See John 3:19-21)

**John 3:19** This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. **20** Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. **21** But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God."

- 2) In verses 11-14, what was the misunderstanding between Jesus and the disciples?
- 3) In verse 15, why does Jesus say that he is glad that he was not there when Lazarus was sick and died?
- 4) What does this miracle show about Jesus?
- 5) Actually, what was the purpose of Lazarus getting sick and dying? (See verse 4)

### James 1:2-4

**James 1:2** Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3** because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. **4** Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

- 6) According to these verses, why does God allow problems in the lives of believers?

### Romans 8: 28-29

**Romans 8:28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **29** For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

- 7) According to these verses, why does God allow problems in the lives of believers?
- 8) Do these verses also apply to people who are not believers?
- 9) What does the Bible teach about problems in the lives of unbelievers? (Read Romans 1:21-29 & 2:7-11)

### **Romans 1:21-29**

**Romans 1:21** For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25 They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen. 26 Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. 27 In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. 28 Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity.

### **Romans 2:7-11**

**Romans 2:7** To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. 9 There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; 10 but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. 11 For God does not show favoritism.