

**A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of April 5, 2020**

**Do You Believe This?**

*This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [John 11:1-27](#)*

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

<sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. <sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." <sup>11</sup> After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." <sup>13</sup> Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told

them plainly, "Lazarus has died, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. <sup>20</sup> So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

- Probably all of us have felt forsaken at one point or another in our lives. When a friend turns on us; when the longing of our heart goes unfulfilled; when it seems that God is absent and unfeeling --or perhaps even the thought that God must hate me.
- Weakness these days is our constant companion. We are coming to grips with the fact that we cannot keep ourselves alive.
- Does that mean that Jesus is absent? What kind of answer does God have when I call to him?
- Jesus loves Martha and her sister and Lazarus
- "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep" (11)
- Do not doubt the love of Jesus when you suffer.
- At the beginning of the sickness the sisters send for Jesus (3).
- No burden, suffering or question to great or too small for Jesus
- Lazarus is described not as someone who loves Jesus, but "he whom you love" (3)
- Our identity is not first and foremost those who love Jesus, but those who are loved by Jesus.
- Jesus gave a sweet promise, "This sickness does not lead to death". Imagine the joy and the crushing disappointment.
- The glory, Not just that Jesus raises him from the dead, but they will see His tears. When we trust in suffering, the glory of God is also revealed.
- Jesus loves, even when He delays in answering.
- Jesus loves, even in death.
- Jesus loves, even the weakest among us.
- In Jesus, your sins have an end. Your quarantine has an end. Your death has end. You cannot keep yourself alive. But He can raise you up. And He will.
- "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality" (Romans 12:12-13).

