



*Serve, Support, Strengthen*

## **Bible Study Topic: Strengthen your faith, the story of Lazarus**

Welcome everyone – 1 min

Suggest feedback on answered prayer – 5 - 10min

Time of Bible study – 40 minutes

Prayer time

### **Introduction:**

This study is all about strengthening our faith by looking at the story of Jesus and Lazarus. We'll explore why Jesus delayed in coming to Lazarus when he was sick, how this story shows Jesus' power and compassion, and how it was a key turning point that led to increasing opposition against Him. We'll also reflect on how we can grow in faith during difficult times, trusting God's plan even when it's hard to see, and how we can help others who are struggling.

### **Questions**

1. Read Luke 10:38-42. What is the history of Jesus and Lazarus? (*Lazarus was the brother of Mary and Martha, and the family had previously spent time with Jesus.*)
2. Read John 11:5-7. Why did Jesus stay two days longer, seemingly because of hearing Lazarus was sick?
3. Read John 11:14-15. Why was Jesus glad he was not there when his friend Lazarus died?
4. Read John 11:21. How does this mirror how we think?
5. Read John 11:22. How does this also mirror how we cop out concerning Gods power?
6. Why do you think did Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead?
  - To Demonstrate His Power and Authority: John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'"
  - To Glorify God: John 11:4: "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.'"
  - To Strengthen the Faith of His Disciples and Others: John 11:14-15: "So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'"
  - To Show Compassion: John 11:33-36: "When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled."



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- As a Prelude to His Own Resurrection: John 11:25-26: "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live
7. How was Lazarus' resurrection a turning point in the Jews hating Jesus?
- Public Reaction and Belief: John 11:45: "Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him."
  - Increased Threat to Religious Authorities: John 11:47-48: "Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin
  - Caiaphas' Prophecy: John 11:49-52. "...better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."
  - The Plot to Kill Jesus: John 11:53: "So from that day on they plotted to take his life."
8. Did the Jews want to kill Lazarus, and if so why? Read John 12:9-122 after the people attempt to answer.
9. Jesus wants faith, while we want Jesus to rather fix our circumstances. How can we seek to strengthen our faith?
10. Read Romans 8:28. God being outside time often has a different perspective of how things would be best for you than what you think. How can we strengthen our faith when things are not going well?
11. How can we help others that are either going through a tough time or going through a time of doubt?

### **Conclusion:**

Strengthening our faith means learning to trust God's timing and purpose, just as Jesus demonstrated in raising Lazarus. Even when our circumstances seem bleak, God is working for His glory and our good. By focusing on God's promises and believing in His power, we can grow in faith. As we deepen our trust in God, we are better equipped to support others through their own trials, helping them find strength in Christ as well.