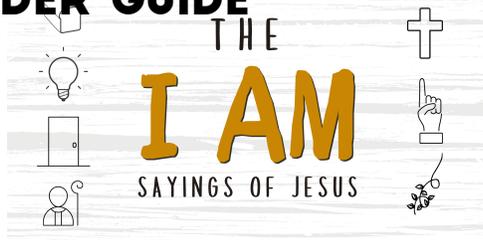


## LEADER GUIDE



# Dive Deeper

## I AM THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE

### SERMON NOTES:

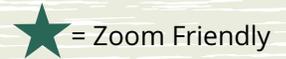
13 DEC 2020

**TITLE:** *I am the Resurrection and the Life*

**TEXT:** John 11:1-44

1. Understanding "I am the Resurrection."
2. Understanding "I am the Life."
3. Understanding how "I am the Resurrection and the Life" changes everything.

## COMMUNITY:



### **What's your favorite Christmas music album or song? Movie? Tradition?**

*Growing together as a community involves learning some of the daily and special rhythms of life. Use this time to make meaningful connections.*

### **What has been the best part of 2020?**

*It's easy to look at the negative of this past year. Spend some time as a group recounting the blessings of this year. Thank God for them.*

### **Which service (in-person or online) are you planning to attend as a part of your Christmas celebration?**

*Service times are 11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm, and 5 pm. We're asking that you would 'reserve' a slot for your preferred service time. Visit [woodlandchurch.org/christmasrsvp](http://woodlandchurch.org/christmasrsvp) to reserve a slot.*

## CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

*(Italicized notations are for leader info)*

### **Read John 11:1-44 out loud. What parts of the story are odd or don't make sense unless Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead?**

*God's Word is powerful, especially when it is read aloud. That is the main way most Israelites would have heard about God (orally). Use this as an opportunity to wrestle with parts of the text (like why Jesus stayed away longer, the misunderstanding of being dead vs being asleep, etc...) together. It's a part of great Bible study.*

### **Develop the idea of what it means to believe Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

See verses 15, 25, 26, 27, 40, 42, 45 especially.

- **Compare and contrast what different characters believed.**
- **What does belief in Jesus being the resurrection and the life include?**
- **How does this make me a better disciple, increasing my love for Jesus?**



★ **What hope for Mary and Martha (and for you) is there in verse 4?**

*From the ESV Gospel Transformation Study Bible, "the gospel is a story of our God doing all things well, not all things easily... upon hearing about Lazarus's sickness, Jesus waited two days longer before responding - apparently so that his compassion could be revealed by a more glorious expression of divine power." What things in your world might God be delaying action on so that he might display a more glorious showing of his power? How do you believe and trust in him in the midst of that?*

**Discuss John 11: 25-26. What do the phrases "and though he die, yet shall he live" and "who lives and believes in me shall never die" mean?**

★ **Christmas is about peace, joy, and hope. What are the opposite of those words? How does Jesus being the resurrection and the life lead to peace, joy and hope?**

**Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead shows his ultimate power over death. What situations or perspectives in your life right now need that power to come and do the impossible?**

**Do you currently use a written out plan for spiritual growth? How do you pursue spiritual growth?**

*In the next weeks, Pastor Brian will be explaining spiritual growth plans and asking people to write one for 2021. A plan includes putting intentional thought toward how you will do the following 4 things: Connect with God, Conform to Scripture, Inputting Growth Opportunities and Serving Others. Not surprisingly, these 4 areas wrap around Woodlands' priorities as well (Grounded, Grace-Filled, Going, Giving, Growing and Gathering). Use this question to begin the discussion about crafting a Spiritual Growth Plan for your members. Encourage everyone to carve out some time in the next few weeks to put intentional thought toward how they will grow spiritually in 2021. There will be more resources and encouragement coming on this topic.*

# FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS:

## DINNER TIME DISCUSSION

What in your life do you need to trust in Jesus' "death raising" power to do?

## DEVELOPING DISCIPLINES

Someone has said: "*Easter is not very far from Christmas*".

Look at a particular Christmas carol and discuss how the words might relate to Jesus as the resurrection and the life.

Consider: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Angels from the Realms of Glory*, or *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne*. Hint: the resurrection verifies the claims made in the songs.

## PRACTICING PRAYER

Is there a prayer you feel God has delayed responding to?

Pray it again.

He hears.



## VERSE MEMORY

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

John 11:25-26

*Christian Standard Version*

## GOSPEL IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-26.

What are the implications for your life that Jesus was raised from the dead?

Reflect on Ephesians 2:4-9, too.

How has his power over death been passed on to you?

*To be a Christ centered community helping people faithfully follow Jesus both locally and globally.*