

COMMUNITY:



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

What has been the best part of 2020?

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

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

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?

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?

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?

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.