



# LESSON 10: JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

## DEEPER BIBLE: WHY DOES GOD SOMETIMES MAKE US WAIT?

### SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- paper

### Easy Prep

- Write on separate pieces of paper the numbers 1 through 10.

### Wait

We've been learning about Lazarus. He was sick, and he died, and then Jesus brought him back to life. Jesus has power over death. We're going to dig deeper into what happened.

When Jesus found out Lazarus was sick, he could've gone to him right away and healed him before he died. But instead, Jesus purposely waited.

*John 11:4-7*

*<sup>4</sup>But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this." <sup>5</sup>So although Jesus loved Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup>he stayed where he was for the next two days. <sup>7</sup>Finally, he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."*

By the time Jesus got there, it seemed like he was too late. So why did he make them wait? Why did he let them think their brother was dead forever? Why does he sometimes make **us** wait? Let's dig in to that.

### Make a Scale

Spread the numbers out on the floor in order. On a scale of 1 to 10, think about how good you are at waiting. You can stand on this scale to show how good you are at waiting. The number 1 is "I WANT IT RIGHT NOW!!!" while 10 is "I'm totally relaxed."

With a partner, stand on the scale and then turn to your partner to discuss about a time it felt like you had to wait **forever**.

It can be hard to be patient when we really want something. It must've been hard for Lazarus' sisters to wait for Jesus. It was a life-or-death situation! Let's see how patient they were.

John 11:21-22

*<sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask."*

Stand on the scale and show how patient you think Martha was. Explain your answers.

Let's read the beginning again to see if we can figure out **why** Jesus made them wait.

John 11:4

*<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this."*

What was Jesus' reason for waiting? Jesus made them wait so that he could show God's glory. He wanted to show that he had power over death. Not only could he heal sick people, he could bring dead people back to life! What about us? Why does Jesus make **us** wait? Let's read some more verses and try to figure it out.

## Dig Deeper

Read the following passages below.

- Psalm 27:14  
*Wait patiently for the LORD.  
Be brave and courageous.  
Yes, wait patiently for the LORD.*
- Psalm 37:7  
*Be still in the presence of the LORD,  
and wait patiently for him to act.  
Don't worry about evil people who prosper  
or fret about their wicked schemes.*

- Psalm 40:1-3

*<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD to help me,  
and he turned to me and heard my cry.*

*<sup>2</sup>He lifted me out of the pit of despair,  
out of the mud and the mire.*

*He set my feet on solid ground  
and steadied me as I walked along.*

*<sup>3</sup>He has given me a new song to sing,  
a hymn of praise to our God.*

*Many will see what he has done and be amazed.*

*They will put their trust in the LORD.*

- Psalm 62:1-2

*<sup>1</sup>I wait quietly before God,  
for my victory comes from him.*

*<sup>2</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress where I will never be shaken.*

Tell about a time something good happened to you because you had to wait.

Waiting was hard for Mary and Martha. And sometimes it's hard for us. When we wait, our faith can grow. We can learn to be more brave, patient, and confident. We can learn to worry less. We can look back after we've waited and see how God listened and helped us. When we wait, we can trust in Jesus' power over the situation, because Jesus has power over everything—even death. So when Jesus makes us wait, we can thank him for the chance to grow and to see God's glory!