

Adult Study Guide for January 24, 2021
When God Is Late
John 11:1-43

Goal: To accept God's timing and respond to the call of Christ to leave our old life behind.

Key Verses: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"* – John 11:25-26 (NIV2011)

1. How would you rate your own record on arriving on time for events? Are you a) always early, b) always on time, or c) always a little late? When you are late for an appointment what is the typical cause?

2. What do you do when you feel that God missed a deadline, or he did not show up in time with a miracle? Read Habakkuk 2:3 and Ecclesiastes 3:11. What does the Bible say about God's timing?

3. Review the story of the raising of Lazarus in John 11:1-43. Why do you think Jesus decided to stay two more days after he heard that Lazarus was sick? (vv. 6-7) Martha and Mary make a point of saying that if Jesus had arrived earlier, Lazarus would not have died. (vv. 21, 32) What were the reasons that Jesus gave for waiting? (v. 40)

4. The perspective of Jesus leads him to define events and relationships in different ways than we do. God's ways are higher than our ways, and everything works together for our good. (Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 8:28) How does knowing that help us redefine words like *death*, *success*, *love*, and *freedom*?

5. Read John 11:25-26. Jesus asks us the same question that he asked Martha: "Do you believe this?" Belief in the resurrection is central to our faith. (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:12-19) How does your belief in the resurrection change the way you view the events of your life, such as the death of a loved one?

6. The call of Jesus to Lazarus to "come out" is powerful. (John 11:43) The dead man came out still bound in his graveclothes. Read 2 Peter 1:3-8. What do you need to live a godly life? What kind of grave clothes do you need to remove? (Colossians 3:5-14) How will the power of the resurrection change your life this week? (Philippians 3:10-11; Ephesians 1:18-20)