**Faith Foundations 2025-2026**

**The Gospel of John (Part 2)**

**Session 1—John 11:1-26**

**Welcome back to Faith Foundations and to the Gospel of John! This year’s study will focus almost entirely on the events of Holy Week as recorded by John, since almost the entire second half of the Gospel is dedicated to recounting this pivotal week in human history. It was during Holy Week that Jesus was arrested, tried, crucified, and raised from the dead, all of which, taken together, are the most significant events to have ever occurred on earth.**

**However, our lessons this year begin not during Holy Week, but rather a short time before that, with one of Jesus’ most famous miracles. Even though this event did not occur during Holy Week, it still set the stage for Holy Week, as the events of that week were partially set in motion by the miracle recounted in our text. This text, therefore, serves as a fitting start to our study of the second half of John’s Gospel.**

**1.) Read John 11:1-4. Who became ill, and to whom was this man related? When else had Jesus encountered this family, and what did they learn from Him (see Luke 10:38-42)?**

**2.) Which event does verse 2 describe? Had this happened already, or was it still to come?**

**3.) What did the sisters send to Jesus to tell Him? What was His response, and what did He mean by this?**

**4.) Read John 11: 5-16. How did Jesus feel about this family? What did He do when He heard about their plight, and why was this a strange way for Him to react?**

**5.) What did Jesus finally decide to do? Why were the disciples nervous about this?**

**6.) How did Jesus cryptically respond to the disciples’ concerns? What did He mean by this, and what is “the light of this world?”**

**7.) What did Jesus tell the disciples He was planning on doing? How did they misunderstand Him?**

**8.) What did Jesus finally tell them plainly about what happened? For what was He glad, and why?**

**9.) What did Thomas encourage the disciples to do? How does this somewhat redeem him, given the major mistake he would make later in John’s Gospel?**

**10.) Read John 11:17-26. How long had Lazarus been in the tomb by the time Jesus arrived?**

**11.) Who else was present with the family in Bethany? Why were they able to be there?**

**12.) What did Martha say at first to Jesus when she went out to meet Him? What kind of tone does it sound like she took with Him, and why?**

**13.) What did Martha also confess about Jesus and His relationship with God?**

**14.) What did Jesus tell Martha, and what did Martha say in response?**

**15.) In verse 25, what did Jesus claim about Himself? How did this redirect and refine Martha’s belief in the resurrection?**

**16.) How did Martha respond to Jesus’ question about whether or not she believed Him? How did her answer confess even more than what He asked her?**

**Even though Martha was upset that Jesus had not come right away when they had sent for Him, she still believed that He would be able to do something for her brother even after he had died. She believed in the resurrection on the last day, but Jesus claimed that the resurrection was found in Him, and that only through faith in Him could anyone be raised from the dead. Martha trusted in Him and believed His words, confessing Him to be the Christ, who was capable of doing the things He claimed He could do.**

**It was one thing, though, for Jesus to make these claims; it was quite another for Him to actually follow through on them. In our next lesson we will see just how trustworthy and reliable Jesus actually was as we conclude this highly significant account from John’s Gospel.**