



Pt. 7: Signs; Raising Lazarus from the Dead

At different points in our lives, many of us wonder why a good God would allow bad things to happen. And without a clear response, that dilemma could cause us to question God's existence altogether. The Gospel writer John documented an occasion where Jesus not only brought his friend Lazarus back to life, but demonstrated how God can exist in the midst of a world of evil and suffering.

Bottom Line: God is good and faithful in every circumstance.

Discussion Questions:

1. What's a notable real or fictional story that appeared to be heading in a bad direction, but ended up turning out well?
2. Think back to the death of a family member or friend. Did that death cause you to question God's love? Explain your answer.
3. **Read John 11:1–45.** What in chapter 11 leads you to believe that Jesus had an especially close relationship with Lazarus and his sisters?
4. What is Jesus' response when he first hears that Lazarus is sick?
5. **Read John 11:43 again.** Imagine for a moment what onlookers would have been thinking after hearing Jesus say this. What words come to mind to describe this scene?
6. In your mind, how does the story of Lazarus address the question, "Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?"
7. Do you have a personal example when something that was tragic helped strengthen your faith? If so, explain.
8. How does Jesus' raising Lazarus prepare us for the resurrection of Christ?
9. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
10. How can the group encourage you this week?