

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### *John 11:17-27*

#### **For Starting**

- If a documentary was made about your life, what would be your favourite scene?
- What is a quote or Bible verse that has changed you?
- As you grow older, what is one quality that you hope to retain (besides a sound mind!)?
- What major events in your life have impacted your "hope"? What happened and how did you (or do you) feel?

#### **For Reviewing**

- How long had Lazarus been in the tomb (v.17)?
- Where did Martha and Mary live (v.18)?
- Why were there visitors in the home (v.19)?
- Which sister went to meet Jesus (v.20)? Why?
- Does Martha blame Jesus for Lazarus' death (v.21-22)?
- How does Jesus assure Martha (v.23)?
- What question does Jesus ask Martha (v.25-26)? Why?
- What title/s does Martha use for Jesus in response (v.27)? How is this like Peter's declaration? See Mark 8:27-29.

#### **For Discussion**

- How does someone who lives in denial respond to death? How does a sentimentalist respond to death?
- "*The worst part of hell is not suffering; it is the absence of hope.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why? Is hopelessness worse than suffering or even death?
- During His ministry, Jesus encountered death on 3 occasions. (See also Matt 9:18-19, 23-26 and Luke 7:11-17). How do these events confirm Jesus' declaration in v.25-26?
- How does belief in Jesus change your perspective on life and death? What kind of hope do you have because of your belief in Jesus as the Son of God?
- End by reading: John 11:25 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.

## John 11:17-27 (NIVUK)

### Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

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

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

