



## PRAYER

Thank You that You are, indeed, the Resurrection and the life for all who trust in You. Help me to develop such a confident trust in Your Word that I am enabled to remain firmly settled in the faith, even when I am surrounded by life's greatest problems and pain. Help me to live my life by faith and not by sight. This I ask in Jesus' name, Amen.

*- Knowing Jesus*

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

If you could ask any person in history who is no longer alive one question, who (apart from Jesus) would that person be, and what would be the question?

## PRAYER



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## WORD

<sup>32</sup> Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."<sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled.<sup>34</sup> And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see."<sup>35</sup> Jesus wept.<sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"<sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days."<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"<sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.<sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."<sup>43</sup> When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."<sup>44</sup> The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

[JOHN 11:32-44](#)

Jesus commands them to do something hard that required faith. A large stone blocking a cave would have taken several people to move (physical/practical action). In addition, a decomposing dead man lies behind this rock (spiritual action).

It will take the community to obey God in doing "heavy" and "hard things" both physically and spiritually in order to participate in his mission.

"Unbind him, and let him go." (verse 44) Lazarus was alive but still bound, yet Jesus enlisted the community to care for Lazarus by unwrapping him and by implication covering his nakedness.

God's mission is reflected in care and concern for people who are dead and in desperate need of Jesus and his resurrection community. They untied him, they covered him, and they welcomed him back to life.

From "Miracles" - Every Nation (Danielle Burkholder)

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 being never and 10 being always), how would you rate your capacity to serve and help with those who keep repeating their behaviours and decisions that land them in trouble? Why would you rate yourself this way?
2. "Jesus wept", is famously the shortest in the Bible - found in this passage. Why do you think it is important for people to know that Jesus weeps with Martha and Mary over their brother Lazarus' death? What might this mean to you in your life?
3. Jesus gets those who are gathered around to "Unbind him, and let him go". It was the community who welcomed Lazarus back to life, and helped unravel him from his grave clothes. What does that mean for those of us who are a part of Jesus' community of faith, and for those who may be walking in ways that lead to death?

4. Martha and Mary invite to the place of their deepest source of grief, trusting that He can bring comfort, and turn things around. Have you trusted Jesus in your deepest sources of grief, anxiety or pain? If so, how has that been for you? If not, would you like to trust him?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus, would you choose today to trust him? Will you enable him to have all authority as the one who calls the shots in your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to be the master of my life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. I declare that I am yours, and you are mine. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NOTES