

Title: Is Jesus Ever Too Late? // **Scripture:** John 11

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME 15-20 minutes

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW 5-10 minutes

What happens when you call out to Jesus, and it seems like he responds too late? What happens when the tragedy isn't averted, the sickness isn't healed, or the opportunity passes by? In John 11, Mary and Martha face this exact circumstance when their brother Lazarus dies shortly after they sent for Jesus to help. When Jesus does arrive, both women say the same thing: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died" (v. 21, 32). They assume that while Lazarus was alive, Jesus could have made a difference. But now that he had died, they believed there was little Jesus could do.

As the story unfolds, however, we see that Jesus brings a reality and a power even deeper than death itself. Not even the most final experience of human existence is beyond Jesus' intervention! To Martha he says, "I am the resurrection and the life" (v. 25).

Do we believe this?

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

Vulnerability is the pathway to community (with God and with others).

SEE IT – Questions 10-15 minutes

Picture:

Where do we see vulnerability in the disciples, Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and Jesus in this story? What invitation does Jesus give as they bring in their vulnerability? (fear-follow; disappointment-trust; despair-presence; death-resurrection)

Mirror:

Where would you put yourself in this story? Which character/role resonates with you? Why?

Window:

How was Jesus affected by Lazarus's death? When the people said to Him, "Come and see," how did He react? What moved Him so deeply? What did He do with the anger ("greatly troubled") that He felt?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Exercise 5 minutes

[Leaders: have a blank index card to hand to each person.] In John the phrase that we keep hearing is "Come and See." In most of the instances, this refers to something life-giving. Let's take a few minutes and reconnect with the Source of Resurrection and Life. Use a time of silence to hear what the Father wants to say to your heart. On the index card write some things that you have always wanted to say to God but never felt like you had permission to say.

Change IN // Group Activity 35 minutes

Watch the Brenae Brown *Ted* talk. As a group, process how you can embrace vulnerability and not numb shame. Click [HERE](#) for link.

Change OUT // Life Application Assignment 5 minutes

"Go and see." As you go out this week, look for opportunities to see people's pain and their vulnerability. Listen to what the Lord is asking you to do in each situation. Like Mary and Martha's community, maybe you just need to be present with someone. Maybe you can challenge them to trust Jesus as the source of resurrection and life.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 minutes

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.