# Gospel of John Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## John Chapter 11

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:   1. Death: Lazarus goes from being sick to dead (vv.1-16) 2. Jesus: His divine and human nature (see below “what this shows us about Jesus”) (vv.17-32) 3. Resurrection: Lazarus called out from the tomb and resurrected (vv.38-44) 4. Response: People put their faith in Jesus (v.45) |
| Possible main point(s):   * Jesus shows us that death is not the end for those who put their faith in him * Jesus showed both his divinity and humanity, that he is God and human * Following Jesus IS life, following Jesus IS death-to-life *now* |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus doesn’t always do what we want him to do, he didn’t leave right away to be with Lazarus (v.6) * Jesus is a prophet, he knows all (omniscient), he knows details we can’t know, ex: he knows Lazarus is dead (v.11-15), he also knows Lazarus will rise again (v.23) * Jesus is the resurrection and the life, i.e. I AM the resurrection and the life (v.25)... Jesus isn’t just “about” *life* or about “the future resurrection some distant day later”... Jesus IS resurrection. Jesus IS life. It would be difficult to make this point strong enough in a club talk. Do your best. One way to think about it is that Jesus is not a “path”, “gateway”, or “plan” to/for life... knowing and believing in Jesus IS life. Knowing and believing in Jesus IS resurrection, now and forever. * Jesus, who is at the same time God, is also human. Jesus was “deeply moved in Spirit” and ultimately “wept” (v.34,35). The one prophesied to “carry our sorrows” (Isa. 53:4), called the “man of sorrows” (Isa. 53:3) is bearing grief and pain to the point of tears. Put another way, God bears grief and pain to the point of human tears. * Jesus has power to bring the dead to life (v.43-44) |
| What this has to do with our life:   * Our timing isn’t always God’s timing (vv.6, 44) * Just like those in the story:   + Jesus loves us (v.5)   + Jesus challenges us “do you believe this” (v.26)   + Jesus mourns and weeps with us (vv.33-34)   + Jesus has the power to resurrect our lives (vv.43-44) |
| Relevant technical details:   * “Bethany” (v.1) = technically this means “house of the poor”, many poor and sick resided there * “Judea” (v.7) = Jesus likely had been in Perea and heading toward Judea meant heading toward where people had tried to kill/stone him (v.8) * “Rabbi” (v.8) = formal title for a Jewish teacher * “...that we may die with him” (v.16) = by going toward Judea, Thomas expected to die * “Resurrection” (v.24) = Common Jewish belief, except the Sadducees who denied this, was belief of a future new heavens and new earth, a people and place of new creation. * “belief” (vv.26, 27) and “faith” (v.45) are the same word in Greek |
| Possible illustrations:   * Clock: Get a big clock, perhaps like one on the wall of a school, to illustrate how painful it is to have to wait for something. The loud and vivid second hand moving slowly. * Tears, mourning, Kleenex: Having a Kleenex box and pulling them out might help to draw attention to the deep sadness Mary, the Jews, and Jesus experienced. * Personal testimony of resurrection and life in your own story * Act it out... have a leader lay down at the beginning of the talk and dramatically get up “come out” |

*For more details see ylhelp.com*

John 11:1–46 (NIV84)

*The Death of Lazarus*

**11** Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” 5 Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

7 Then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

8 “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?”

9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world’s light. 10 It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light.”

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

*Jesus Comforts the Sisters*

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

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

23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

28 And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

*Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead*

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

*The Plot to Kill Jesus*

45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. 46 But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done.