



**NOWTHEN  
ALLIANCE  
CHURCH**

# STUDY GUIDE

For the sermon on April 5, 2020

John 11:1-48

## REFLECT | REVIEW

*Review and reflect on the Scriptures and important points of the sermon.*

Before starting this study, take some time to pray and set your heart in the right place.

### **Hands Up: Surrender**

I choose to hold up my hands as a symbol of surrender. My life is not about me. I surrender to your Lordship. I surrender my preferences, my prejudices and my position to you; My fears, finances, friends and family to you.

### **Hands Out: Generous**

I choose to hold out my hands as a symbol of generosity. What I have is not mine. I am only a steward of all that you have given me. I want to mirror the way that you opened your hand to us and lavished your love and life upon us. I want to live an open handed life in a closed fist culture.

### **Hands Forward: Mission**

I choose to hold my hands forward as a symbol of mission. I want to live for something greater than me. I want to embrace your kingdom mission. I want to embrace and welcome your mission to the lost, last, least and lonely – the poor, powerless, privileged and persecuted.

## ENGAGE | ENCOURAGE

*Consider together what God is asking you to do and encourage each other.*

This week's resurrection story gave more specific clarity to the reason Jesus performed many of these miracles. What is that primary reason? (**John 11:4**)

Often, at least personally, our understanding of God's actions is focused on our desires and not his glory. We see that in the way Martha (11:21), Mary (11:32) and the crowd (11:36-37) responded to the situation at hand. They knew Jesus loved Lazarus. They knew Jesus had performed miracles. They knew (at the time) that Lazarus had died without Jesus healing him. Our logic often comes to the

same conclusion, one of questioning God's love, goodness, or power when we grieve a loss God was capable of preventing. How have you identified with that in your experiences?

What other lens does God offer in this story as he responds to our circumstances? (How might we prioritize God's glory over even our own desires?)

**Read the response recorded in John 11:45-48.** Jesus' behavior has repeatedly upset the religious and political systems of His day. Do you think the same ever happens, or needs to, in our day? Where might your religious understanding be opposing the work of God more than supporting it?

<b>LOOKING AHEAD</b>
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Next week we get to celebrate Easter together. The central celebration focused on the most important act (Jesus' resurrection) in all of history. Who might you invite to join you (even digitally) for that celebration?