



# ALIVE

RealLife

## WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

**5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7** and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

### **THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO FOLLOW JESUS**

- You don't have to understand *everything* to believe *something*.
- Personal pain and suffering ultimately honor Jesus, but his glory is never separated from his unfathomable love for us.
- There's nothing wrong with your faith when something doesn't go your way.

### **LET'S DISCUSS**

John 11:6 says that Jesus *stayed two more days* before he went to his sick friend, Lazarus. During Jesus' delay, Lazarus died. Sometimes God's 'holy delays' end in death or major disappointment. This can make God seem cruel at worst or distant at best.

- Why do you think Jesus didn't rush to heal Lazarus when he was sick? Do you think he wanted to?
- Can you share a time when God's delay made something in your life much harder or worse?
- What is your response to God when he seems to be waiting much too long to heal or help?

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**CONSIDER THIS**

*"Sometimes we need to slow down, so we can catch up with God."*

- E. Jamieson

- Why do you think humans are in such a hurry in life? Personally, what causes you to rush?
- Martha and Mary had every right to expect Jesus to be in a hurry to heal "the one he loved" considering the circumstances. So what does his delay reveal to us about God's love? Can perfect love be late? (Read 1 John 4:18 to help you decide.)
- What might change if our expectations of God were based upon his words? "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die..." (John 11:25.)

**REAL TALK**

Past pain, loss, trauma, childhood, upbringing, apathy, disinterest or disappointment (among many others) can keep us from coming to Jesus.

- **If you were being honest, what specific roadblock keeps you from coming to Him?**



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### **NEXT STEPS**

READ JOHN 11:21-22: "LORD," MARTHA SAID TO JESUS, "IF YOU HAD BEEN HERE, MY BROTHER WOULD NOT HAVE DIED. BUT I KNOW THAT EVEN NOW GOD WILL GIVE YOU WHATEVER YOU ASK."

When things seem like they can't get any worse, borrow Martha's faith and address Jesus this way, "But I know that, even now God will give you whatever you ask."

**In your difficulty, don't give up.**

READ JOHN 3:19: "THIS IS THE VERDICT: LIGHT HAS COME INTO THE WORLD, BUT PEOPLE LOVED DARKNESS INSTEAD OF LIGHT BECAUSE THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL."

Being controlled by darkness isn't freedom, it's a prison. Be bold enough to identify where you've loved darkness more than light and ask God to help you.

**Choose alive over evil.**