

# PURSUE

BUILDING FOR PEOPLE. BELIEVING FOR MORE.

5

Leader Guide

## Pursue the Hurting (Lazarus)

*March 20, 2022*

**Main Passage: John 11:1-27**

### Theological Theme

Jesus was fully man, but He was also fully God. It is easy to see His human attributes throughout the Gospels. His divine attributes, however, are sometimes veiled. During His ministry on earth, Jesus had all the divine attributes one would assign to God the Father.

### Introduction

- ❓ When was a time God used difficulty or even a tragedy to accomplish His purpose in your life and bring glory to Himself?
- ❓ What happened? How did it change your relationship with God?

The story of Lazarus is proof that bad things do happen to God's children, and even those bad things are a part of His plan and purpose for them. In the story of Lazarus, we see God working directly in the situation. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, both explained the situation to His disciples and intervened. We see the attributes of God on full display in this account. God's benevolence, His omniscience, and His might are brightly portrayed in this account.

### 1. The Love of Jesus Christ (John 11:1-10)

In verse three, Lazarus's sister sent a message to Jesus saying, "Lord, the one you love is sick." And, then again in verse five, John reported, "Now Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus." Jesus did not love this family because they had earned His love in some way. They weren't perfectly righteous, for no one is. Yet, Christ loved them in a special way. From the very beginning, we see that God is the initiator of a relationship with people by expressions of love. For example, God created Adam and Eve and they

responded to that act of love by loving Him back. Also, when Adam and Eve sinned, God sought them out even though they were hiding. Then we see God coming to Cain to warn him against sin. God is the initiator. John wrote, “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Christ first loved this family, and they loved Him back.

## 2. The Wisdom of Jesus Christ (John 11:11-16)

Lazarus’s sister had sent a message to Jesus telling Him Lazarus was ill (v. 3), but there is no record that He received any more messages from them. Yet somehow Jesus knew Lazarus had passed away from the illness. He knew this because, though His divinity was often veiled, He was still fully God. He knew it because He was (and is) all-knowing.

## 3. The Power of Jesus Christ (John 11:17-27)

Jesus undoes death. Just as He raised Lazarus from the dead, so He redeems from death those souls that look to Him in faith. He did this through His own death on the cross: “And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses. He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross” (Colossians 2:13-14).

## Questions to Guide Your Group’s Discussion

- ❓ What does this passage say?
- ❓ What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ❓ What does this passage tell us about man?
- ❓ What does this passage demand of me?
- ❓ How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
- ❓ How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?