
Don't just hear the Word—live it! Read the focus passage, then dig into the guide independently or with a small group.

SERIES: I'm Him

MESSAGE TITLE: End Game

MESSAGE OVERVIEW: Life is hard. Painful even. That is why it is so important to remember that the God of the universe loves us deeply. When you can't see the hand of God at work, trust His heart for you. His timing is best. He knows the end game and He is trustworthy.

FOCUS PASSAGE: John 11

BREAKING IT DOWN:

1. It can be so hard to trust God when we feel impatient or helpless. When have you experienced this? In hard times, have you felt like God was absent? What did you do?
2. Mary and Martha go to the lengths of sending a messenger to bring news of Lazarus' condition to Jesus. They were hopeless he would improve, and desperate for help. They believed in who Jesus was. And they knew he loved Lazarus. As they waited and waited for Jesus to appear, and he didn't, what might they have started to wonder? What expectations might the sisters have had? What goes through your mind when you think God isn't showing up?
3. Verses 5 and 6 sound counterintuitive to us—He loved them, so He waited two days. On top of that, the journey to Bethany was another two days. If Jesus loved them, why delay? Does Jesus seem rattled by the news? Does he make an emotional decision?
4. "Do you believe?" Jesus asks Martha. The faith that answers "yes" has to be personal. It can't come from our family or tradition but from a committed heart. Read Romans 10:10.
5. Jesus knew death would be defeated, but still wept. He felt Lazarus' death and the mourning it caused. That is God's heart for us. He is right there with us in the valleys.

WAYS TO LIVE THE MESSAGE THIS WEEK:

Three things to remember in the waiting:

- Jesus knew what would happen. Death was not the end for Lazarus, and it isn't for us either. God knows the endgame. He's not bound by our "worst-case scenario" thinking. His love supersedes our circumstances and our understanding.
- His timing is best, even when it's confusing. It's *always* for our greater good, His glory, and the biggest impact possible.
- When you can't see the hand of God, trust the heart of God. His love is there, even in the confusing moments of life.

