

# ***“HE DWELT AMONG US”***

## **THE GOSPEL OF JOHN LESSON 12 Chapter 11**

***“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me.” Psalm 23:4***

We have learned much about Jesus as we have studied the Gospel of John. At times it has almost seemed that we have been in the crowd listening to Him speak and watching Him heal. We have learned that Jesus has power:

- a. over the elements (walking on water);
- b. over physical things (turning water into wine, feeding the multitude with just a few loaves and fishes); and
- c. over illness and physical handicaps (healing the blind and sick).

In **chapter 11**, we will discover that He also has power over death. No person, whether a physician, scientist, or religious guru can ever make this claim and then proceed to prove it. But Jesus did!

Death is the one thing that many people fear the most. Let us begin this study with a prayer to trust Him even in the *“shadow of death.”*

### **DAY #1**

Read **John, chapter 11:1-31** and record the important facts. Give a title to this section.

Title:

**DAY #2** \*Pray before you start your lesson each day.\*

**\*Note\*** There are several questions in this lesson that might seem very challenging. There will be an asterisk (\*) by those questions. Stop and pray that the Lord will give you insight as you answer each one. If the answer does not seem clear, do not worry. Skip that question and go back to it later. If it still does not seem clear, still do not worry. Look forward to being blessed as you later hear others' answers.

1) In **chapter 11**, we meet a family from Bethany, which was a village just a few miles from the city of Jerusalem. Share what you learn about the two sisters as recorded in **Luke 10:38-42**.

A. Martha

B. Mary

2) Describe the emotions that must have accompanied the urgent message in **John 11:3**.

\*3) In **John 11:4**, Jesus heard the news. He was calm. Explain what you think He meant by "This sickness is...for the Glory of God, that the Son of God may be Glorified by it."

\*4) We learn in **verse 6** that Jesus didn't immediately rush to aid His beloved sick friend. Why do you think He delayed two days?

***"God is seldom early, but never late!"***

**DAY #3** Read John 11:7-31 **"MARTHA, DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"**

1) Danger awaited Jesus if He went to Judea (the region where Bethany was located). Jesus knew that the next time He entered Jerusalem would be His last. What is He communicating in **verses 9-10** concerning the limited time of His ministry?

- \*2) Read **John 11:11-14** very carefully. Jesus likened the physical death of Lazarus to sleep. What did He mean?
- 3) In **Luke 10:42**, Jesus exhorted Martha to be more interested in spiritual things. Martha loved Jesus and hopefully took His rebuke to heart and grew. Let's take a close look at Martha's actions and conversation with Jesus in **John 11:20-27**. Sometimes our faith grows and stretches one step at a time. Record what you observe of these steps of growth in Martha's faith in the following verses. In your own words, state what you see.
- A. vs. 20
- B. vs. 21
- C. vs. 22
- D. vs. 23-24
- E. vs. 25-27
- 4) The words of **John 11:25-26** are some of the most powerful and comforting in the New Testament. Death is man's mortal enemy! Share how the following passages can give comfort to you or someone you know facing this "*formidable foe*."
- A. **John 11:25-26**
- B. **I Thessalonians 4:13-14**
- C. **I Corinthians 15:53-55**
- 5) \*Memory Verse\* Write out **John 11:25-26** on a 3x5 index card.
- A. Memorize this passage as a powerful tool for "hope that is imperishable."

***"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me,  
though he may die, he shall live.  
And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.  
Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26***

B. Jesus asks *us*, “Do *you* believe this?” To believe is to have confidence in the truth and reliability of this statement. To us, as Christians, belief is a verb not just a noun. How can *confidence* in this promise affect your life?

6) Martha left the presence of Jesus with words of hope and assurance. In **verses 28-29**, we learn that the first thing she did was to go get Mary to encourage her to also go to Him. Explain how each of their actions can be an example to us?

A. Martha’s

B. Mary’s

#### **DAY #4**

Read **John 11:32-57** through again. Now go back and record the facts you observe. Give a title to this section.

Title:

**DAY #5 “LAZARUS, COME FORTH!”**

**\*WEEPING\*** It was customary in that day for the grieving process to be demonstrated in a loud unrestrained manner. Friends would gather around the family and weep and wail loudly. Wealthy families would often hire professional mourners to add to the volume level. By contrast, the word *wept* in **verse 35** denotes a quiet shedding of tears.

**“Jesus wept.” John 11:35**

This is the shortest verse in the Bible, and yet it speaks volumes.

- 1) Share what you learn about the compassion of Jesus in **John 11:33-38**. Also read **Hebrews 4:15** which says “For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities.”
  
- 2) Read **John 11:39-40**. Jesus again challenged Martha’s faith. In a warm country like Israel, decay sets in rapidly. It took a lot of faith to believe that Jesus could have prevented the death of Lazarus. But now the ultimate challenge of faith is set forth.
  - A. What reward of faith did Jesus proclaim? (**vs. 40**)
  
  - B. Describe how Jesus proved His claim in **John 11:43-44**.
  
- 3) We have thus far observed actions and conversations of the three main characters, Jesus and the sisters. Let us now view the occurrences of **verses 43-44** from Lazarus’ experience. Put yourself in his position, and describe this incredible death to life experience.

**\*Quote\*** *Ben Franklin wrote the following epitaph for his own tomb: “The Body of Benjamin Franklin, Printer, Like the Cover of an Old Book, Its Contents Torn Out, Stripped of Its Lettering and Gilding, Lies Here, Food for Worms. Yet the Work Itself shall not be Lost; for it will, as He Believed, Appear once More in a New and More Beautiful Edition, Corrected and Amended by The Author.”*

- 4) We will also someday respond to a shout from Christ! Lazarus rose to physical life, only to die physically again.
  - A. From **I Thessalonians 4:16-18**, explain how our experience will be different.

B. Prayerfully meditate on that incredible, wonderful experience of **I Thessalonians 4:16-18**. Explain in your own words how you might think and feel in that moment.

- 5) Read **John 11:45-52**. Many of the Jews saw and “believed.” They were eyewitnesses. Some went and reported to the Jewish leadership. They could no longer deny the power and abilities of Jesus to do “works and signs.” Finally, their true motives for opposing Jesus are revealed. Explain what they were and what they planned to do about it.
- 6) \*Optional digging deeper\* Read **John 11:49-52**. Note that this prophecy confirms the Lord’s plan for the worldwide family of God as stated in **John 10:16**.

### Day #6

- 1) In the **11th chapter of John**, we have learned that sometimes the Lord delays so that He might work even more powerfully in a situation that is absolutely hopeless by human standards. Have you ever prayed and then had to wait for the Lord to work? Are you waiting right now? Could it be that the Lord desires to stretch your faith? Are you willing to trust Him? Are you willing to trust Him with faith and expectancy in your heart? Share how the lessons in this chapter encourage you. Also read **Isaiah 40:31**.
- 2) Prayerfully ponder this lesson. Share three lessons, encouragements or exhortations that apply to you personally. Ask the Lord to help you grow and be confident in Him in these areas.
  - A.
  - B.
  - C.

***Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and the life.”***

**\*Quote\*** *As a young man, D.L. Moody was called upon suddenly to preach a funeral sermon. He hunted all throughout the four Gospels trying to find one of Christ’s funeral sermons, but searched in vain. He found that Christ broke up every funeral he ever attended. Death could not exist where he was. When the dead heard his voice they sprang to life. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and the life.”*