



#1 The Lazarus Story

John 11:1-44

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INTRODUCTION: In this study we will examine what it takes to start again in the face of a great setback. We will look at select verses from John 11. Setbacks are a part of life that can leave us discouraged, disappointed and defeated. Setbacks can come in the form of our relationships, marriages, children, jobs, or business ventures. Just about any activity, including our health can be subject to a setback. Please take a moment to read the entire story of Lazarus in John 11:1-44 so that you know the awesome ending.

1. Share with your group a setback that you have faced in your life.
2. a. What do you think this statement from Sunday's sermon means?
"A GOOD COMEBACK REQUIRES A GOOD FAILURE"
 - b. In what ways do you think the above statement can be the beginning of seeds of hope?
3. READ: JOHN 11:1-4. What statement of hope does Jesus give in verse 4?
4. READ: JOHN 11:5-7
 - a. What information are we given in verse 5?
 - b. What happens in verse 6?
 - c. What is the confusion that arises in your mind between what we are told about Jesus' relationship to this family in verse 5 and his actions in verse 6?
5. Discuss this statement from Sunday's sermon and its relationship to this particular story.
"A DELAY IS NOT A DENIAL"
 - a. What can happen to our thinking when God doesn't immediately respond to our requests?
6. READ: JOHN 11:20-21
 - a. What does Martha say to Jesus in verse 21?
 - b. How can the phrase "if only" become a trap of defeat and despair in our lives?
 - c. FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION: Is there some situation in your life where you have settled for defeat and accepted that that's the way it is going to be? In other words, where have you given up hope?
 - d. Discuss how this way of thinking can become a trap of our enemy, Satan, in our lives.
7. READ: JOHN 11:25
 - a. What bold statement does Jesus make here?
 - b. What is the ultimate setback Mary and Martha faced and what does Jesus say about it?
8. READ: JOHN 11:26
 - a. What question is Jesus asking here and how does it apply to our lives today?
 - b. Discuss this statement from Sunday's sermon regarding verse 26
"YOUR COMEBACK HINGES ON THE ANSWER TO JESUS' QUESTION IN VERSE 26"
 - c. Discuss: if Jesus can raise the dead he can restore your sense of hope and help you dream again.

9. READ: JOHN 11:34-36 a. What do we discover about the character of Jesus in these verses?
b. Why is it important that we get this glimpse into the very personal life of Christ?
c. Why do you think Jesus wept?
d. Do you think Jesus loves you like this? Why or why not?
10. READ: JOHN 11:38 The words “deeply moved, or “terribly upset” can also be interpreted as ‘anger swelling up with in him” (see The Message version) . In Sunday's sermon the comments were made that Jesus was not angry **AT** Mary or Martha or their family; he was angry **AT** the sin that had caused this suffering in their lives. He hates what sin has done to humanity. “*Jesus is not angry at you he is angry with you*” What do you think?
11. READ: JOHN 11:39 a.What instruction is given here and what excuse does Martha give?
b. What do you think pride can stand in the way of making a comeback with severed relationships or our estranged children etc.
c. What excuses do we make in our lives for not dreaming or believing again?
d. How are we like Martha?
12. READ: JOHN 11:40 a. What does Jesus do in these verses?
b. What is the significance of Jesus using Lazarus' name?
c. Do you think Jesus knows your name? and if so, how does that make you feel? Does it bring you comfort?
13. READ: JOHN 11:44 a. What decision did Lazarus have to make here?
b. What decision do you have to make about your circumstances? What next step do you have to take?
c. What is the significance of the words ‘take off the grave clothes and let him go’?
d. What is binding you to past failures, discouragements, disappointments and defeats?
14. In what ways do you think belonging to a small group can help encourage one another to move forward into the future that God has planned for each of us?

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS WEEK: Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Be sure to get your tickets to the hilarious **AMUsing COMEDY SHOW** with Leland Klassen & Dan MacAuley Sat. night October 1 at 7 PM. Tickets are only \$15 and will go to support World Vision and our capital campaign. *This is a great night to invite family and friends to see an entirely different side of church.* You will not be disappointed. Get your tickets at church or by calling the office 705-673-6110 or online at www.allnationschurch.ca

WRITE YOUR GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS HERE: