



## **Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions**

Topic: *Jesus' Timing is Always Perfect*

Text: John 11:1-44

Service Date: April 6, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### **Getting Started**

- What is one thing you've found yourself hoping for lately? Vacation? Time to slow down? Job promotion? Friend reconciling? Something else?
- The sermon kicked off the series "Be Hopeful". Why do you think we are so impatient when it comes to waiting, even when it means that waiting can make the reward even better than if we had received it right away?

### **Sermon Discussion**

- Matt Hayden started the sermon saying he hoped the sermon would remind us that in times when we feel like we've been "knocked around", God is there. When have been times in your life when you felt as though there was no hope, but hope somehow showed up, possibly in the weirdest of ways?
- Have 1-2 individuals in your group read John 11:1-44 aloud. From either the passage or Sunday sermon, what things stuck out to you?
- In the passage, there is a pain of loss when Lazarus dies. What does this story indicate about the humanity of Jesus?
- If Jesus knew He could raise Lazarus from the dead, why do you think He wept (vs. 35)?
- The pain of a loss can lead to different emotions such as doubt, struggle, and anxiety. What has been something you remember losing (i.e. death of a loved one, a job, disappointment from goal not achieved)? What was your initial reaction and did that reaction/perspective ever change over time?

- Even though Jesus knew that Lazarus would be raised, He was still sad. There seems to be a clear understanding in the passage that although we may have faith, it's natural to sometimes not feel hopeful. Life can be tough. Do you think someone can feel hopeless and maintain their faith at the same time?
- How do we grow our faith in times that seem hopeless?
- The sermon noted that there is a “process for connecting in times of struggle”. The four areas noted were: worship, wait, work, and watch. Is there one area that you find the most difficult?
- Related to hope- why is it important to stay engaged in the life of the local church even when we don't feel like it?
- Following and trusting Jesus can be difficult, especially when we don't know the outcome. In the waiting period, it can be easy to lose hope. What are ways you've found to stay hopeful even when you didn't know the final outcome or if your prayer would ever be answered in the way you wanted?
- What is the importance of understanding hope from an eternal perspective and not an earthly one?
- A final point in the sermon was to remember God's purpose in challenging times. In fact, the sermon title was “Jesus' Timing is Always Perfect”. How does focusing on His purpose and not what we think the purpose should be change our perspective and ability to maintain hope?

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**Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?**

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is “Stories of Life Change”. Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.