

Easter At Redeemer

SETBACKS AND COMEBACKS

Big Idea: The story about Lazarus in John 11 builds a personal pathway to the meaning and application of Jesus' resurrection for your life

We learn from this story that setbacks are real. Lazarus' death was a major setback for his family with the grief and pain that it brought. Life is hard—difficulties, disappointments, pain and delays are real in all our lives. We also learn that help is available when we face a setback. Jesus brought hope into a hopeless situation by His presence. And comebacks are possible because of who Jesus is. Jesus brings resurrection power to all who believe in Him as the risen Lord today.

John 11:17-27 (NIV) *On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

Start Talking:

- So far, what's the biggest lesson that you have learned about God and yourself since this situation started?

Start Thinking:

- Share one set back that you (or your family) have experienced during this time of COVID-19? How did you respond to it?
- **Read John 11:32-33.** Mary hoped that Jesus would arrive in time to save her brother. However, Jesus delayed his arrival time. How do you typically respond when God doesn't answer your prayer requests in the time and way that you hoped for?
- Setbacks are very real, but help is available in Christ. Share a time that you were in a difficult situation and Jesus "showed up" on time and made the difference.
- **Read Matthew 28:1-7.** Jesus had a comeback when no one thought he would. What hope do you find in Jesus' comeback and how can you intentionally tap into this hope during challenging times?

Start Praying:

Ask your group members: What is the major set-back that you are facing during this time? The group leader can pray for everyone once they have shared or you can assign group members (if they are comfortable) to pray for one another during this time. Pray that you would each would grow in your faith during this time, face your challenges and have victory!

Start Doing:

- Reach out to a family member or friend and ask if there is a way that you can safely help them this week. Be available to encourage and pray with anyone you connect with.