



# GOING DEEPER: WHEN PIGS FLY



## MIRACLES IN THE BOOK OF JOHN (WEEK 4 OF 4)

### (JOHN 11:17-27) JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

The reason John wrote about miraculous signs is so we may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, and by believing we might have life (John 20:30-31). The Book of John is a love story of Jesus, God's living Word. We have seen Jesus as the bread of life who feeds our souls. We've seen him walking on water to comfort us when fear paralyzes us. Jesus is the light of the world that enables us to see truth in the darkness of our own lives. In the climactic story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus is lovingly and vividly portrayed as the "resurrection and the life." Those who believe in Him shall have life, for now and forever.

- 1) We do not always experience life as God intended. How was life meant to be? (Genesis 1:26) Why do we physically die? How did we spiritually die? (Genesis 3). How was the greater tragedy of forever living in this sin-infested world avoided?
- 2) (Read John 11:1-6) Mary and Martha sent an urgent request for Jesus to intervene on their brother's behalf. How do Jesus' words "this sickness will not end in death" indicate a bigger narrative? Why might His actions imply that Jesus simply did not care, especially to Mary and Martha?
- 3) (Read John 11:7-16) How do the disciples misunderstand Jesus' desire to "wake Lazarus up"? Why would it be easy for them to question Him when He said, "I'm glad I was not there when Lazarus had died"? How is Jesus leading them to see a bigger eternal story?
- 4) (Read John 11:17-37) What might Martha and Mary's words, "If you have been here, he would not have died," tell us about their faith in Jesus? How do you think they understood Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall live"?
- 5) (Read John 11:38-44) What was Martha's response to Jesus' words "take away the stone"? What might this tell us of her understanding of "I am the resurrection and the life"? Why didn't Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead with words like "rise up," or "let there be life," or "live Lazarus!?" What words did He use instead? How was "the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it" revealed? (11:4)
- 6) What two contrasting responses did the Jews have as they witnessed this miraculous sign? (John 11:45 & John 11:53). The crucifixion and a tomb were deterrents used to control the citizenry. What kind of miraculous sign did they become instead? Connect with John 20:31.

### **Prayer:**

*Heavenly Father: Thank you for sending Your son Jesus to live with us, so that He might die for us. Assure us that we have life in His name, that He is the resurrection and the life, and that He has turned the tomb into a portal for life everlasting. In His name we pray, Amen.*