



Steps to The Cross #1: “Jesus Raises Lazarus”

Feb 21 & 22, 2026

John 11:14–15, 17–27, 39–44

Opener: When has waiting for something longer than expected actually changed the outcome—or changed you?

Go Deeper: (Exploring the Bible)

1. Read John 11:17–27. How does Jesus shift Martha from a future hope (“the last day”) to a present reality (“I am the resurrection”)?

2. Read John 11:33–35 and Isaiah 53:3–4. What does Jesus’ intense emotion tell us about how God feels about death and suffering?

3. Compare John 11:43 with Genesis 1:3 and Ezekiel 37:4–5. What pattern do you see when God speaks?

4. Read Hebrews 4:15–16. How does the scene at Lazarus’s tomb show that Jesus “sympathizes with our weaknesses”?

5. Read Romans 8:11. How does connecting Lazarus’s story to this promise change the way you view the “dead places” in your own life?

Live it: (Applying to Our Lives)

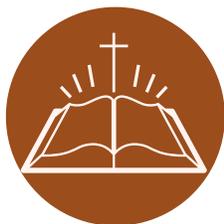
1. Where are you struggling to trust who God is because of what you're experiencing?

2. Have you ever felt the weight of thinking you "didn't believe hard enough"? How does Martha's story speak to that?

3. Jesus wept at a grave He was about to open. Where do you need permission to grieve and trust at the same time?

4. What's one area of your life where Jesus might be saying, "Roll the stone away"? What makes that feel risky?

5. Jesus told the crowd, "Unbind him and let him go." Who in your life needs help stepping into freedom? What's one thing you could do this week?



GOD TIME:

Daily Bible Readings (Feb 22-Feb 28)

- Sun: John 11:17-27 – Faith in the Waiting
- Mon: John 11:32-44 – Tears and the Command
- Tues: Isaiah 53:1-6 – A Man of Sorrows
- Wed: Ezekiel 37:1-14 – Valley of Dry Bones
- Thurs: Romans 8:9-17 – The Spirit Who Gives Life
- Fri: Psalm 130 – Out of the Depths
- Sat: Revelation 21:1-5 – All Things New

