

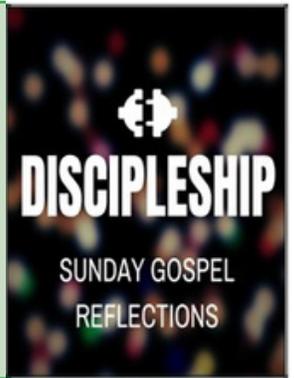
In preparation for March 22, 2026, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Theme -Tears to Triumph!

“I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Do you believe this?”

(Verses 25-26) John 11:1-45



- Adults** - 1. Jesus recites the verse above to Martha and asks if she believes this. After she professes her faith, Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. She was asked to believe without seeing, just like we are asked. Why then, after knowing that Jesus raised Lazarus do we still get caught up in the act of seeing before believing?
2. Imagine Jesus calling you out of the tomb instead of Lazarus. What might change in your life as you emerge from the tomb?
3. God will deliver us from our death. Has there been a time in your life that God has delivered you from “death” to new life? Do you take advantage of this opportunity through Reconciliation?

Obstacles for living out the Gospel: Not ultimately trusting our Lord and Savior.

- Teens** - 1. Jesus is “deeply disturbed” and weeps. What do you think causes Jesus to be so perturbed—Lazarus’s death itself, the pain of those who are grieving, the lack of faith around Him, or something else? Why?
2. Jesus knows He will raise Lazarus, yet He still weeps. What does this reveal about how Jesus enters into our suffering, even when He knows the outcome?
3. Martha says, “Lord, if you had been here...” Have you ever thought or prayed something similar? What’s harder, believing God can help, or trusting God’s timing?
4. What “stones” might Jesus be asking you to take away- fear, pride, habits, excuses, doubt?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Dealing with suffering, loss, or waiting on God’s timing, especially when it feels like God is “late” or not answering your prayers.

- Children** - 1. Martha knew that nothing was impossible for God. How do you think Martha got such strong faith? How can you grow in your faith and trust God like Martha? After reading today’s Gospel, how will you respond to situations in your life that may seem hopeless?
2. What does the act of raising Lazarus reveal about Jesus’ identity and authority? How does this miracle demonstrate Jesus’ compassion for those who mourn? How can you show compassion to those who are sad or mourning?
3. Lazarus was bound by his burial cloth and Jesus set him free. How can the Sacrament of Reconciliation set you free from your sins?

Obstacles to living out the Gospel: Lack of faith.

