

## Small Group Material

### Transforming Miracles 7 - Goodness and Hope

John 11.1-45

#### Welcome (10 mins)

If you could raise one person from the dead, who would it be and why?

#### Worship (10 mins)

Listen to Glorious Day by Casting Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXp6xcY5lqU>

Let the song lead you into worship and praise of God and his Son, Jesus Christ. Make space to do this. Over Zoom, it can be very helpful to ask one person to lead off in prayer.

**Word** (30-35 mins) *This final of John's seven signs is the climax to conclude the series. Up until now a growing number of Jesus' followers have been amazed by his miracles of transformation, healing and provision. This story, however, combines intimacy, grief and power over the last great enemy.*

#### **Discovery questions** (move through these quickly!)

Read John 11 v1-16.

How would you describe Jesus' relationship with this family?

Why do you think Jesus didn't go immediately to Lazarus?

Why is Jesus returning to Lazarus at this time?

What do the disciples fear instead?

**For discussion and application** Have you ever felt Jesus was not listening to you when you prayed?

How did you deal with this?

Jesus postponed his response to the sisters' request. Can you share an example when he has postponed answering a prayer but in retrospect it has turned out for the best.

Read v17-45

#### **Discovery questions** (move through these quickly!)

How long has Lazarus been dead by the time Jesus arrives?

How would you have felt if you were Mary or Martha and you had heard that Jesus had finally arrived?

V21-27. What do you learn about Martha from the way she talks with Jesus?

#### **For discussion and application**

Have you ever attended a funeral where there was no sense of eternal life (compared with v25-26)? How did you go away feeling?

Can you express in words what is so amazing for you when Jesus says, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.' v25-26.

What difference does hope from Jesus make for you? What helps you live more deeply in this hope?

#### **Witness** (15 mins)

Many of us will remember Warren who was Ace in the TV programme The Gladiators and has done a number of things with us in Chippy.

Here he is speaking about his father's death. Do watch it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MpzFGDsV-30&feature=youtu.be>

Pray for the message of hope to get out this Christmas. Let's each pray for 3 people who we know don't have this hope.

As you think of particular friends, is there an appropriate Christmas event you could invite them to? At this time of Covid restrictions, more people are finding help and inspiration through the internet. Can you think of a friend that you could forward this video to?

Are there any other good resources you have found that others in the group might find helpful sharing?

Are you planning to have some fun as a group - over Zoom? Time to  
PLAN!