

## **Devotional Guide: Sermon Series: Questions Jesus Asked:**

### ***“Do You Believe This?”***

**John 11:1–44 | 2 Corinthians 4:16–18**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious and loving God,  
we come before you not as spectators, but as people invited into life with you.  
Slow us down.  
Quiet our hearts.  
Help us to recognise that you are near — even in the places that feel heavy,  
uncertain, or closed off. Lord Jesus, you stood before the tomb and spoke life.  
You wept with those who grieved.  
You asked, *“Do you believe this?”*

As we reflect today, give us honesty in our questions,  
courage in our faith,  
and openness to your Spirit.

Move us from simply hearing your word  
to living it.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen.

#### **Scripture Reading**

- John 11:1-44
- 2 Corinthians 4:16–18

Read both passages again slowly, write down any verses that jump out and speak to you.

#### **Summary of the Message/Sermon**

In John 11, Jesus meets Martha and Mary in the raw reality of grief. Lazarus is dead. The tomb is sealed. Hope seems gone. And yet, right there — before anything changes — Jesus asks Martha a question:

***“I am the resurrection and the life... Do you believe this?”***

This question is not about understanding everything.  
It is about **trusting Jesus before the outcome is clear.**

The same Jesus who:

- wept with his friends
- stood before the tomb
- called Lazarus into life

is the same Jesus who meets us today — in ordinary places, in grief, in questions, in daily life. The Christian hope is not just about life after death.  
It is about **resurrection life breaking in now:**

- into grief
- into tired faith
- into broken situations
- into a hurting world

Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians that even when life feels like it is falling apart outwardly, **God is renewing us inwardly.** Faith is not passive belief.  
It is active trust in a living person — Jesus Christ.

And discipleship begins when we move from:

- *hearing about Jesus (just sitting in church once a week)*  
to
- *responding to him personally (seeing Jesus show us in our daily lives)*

## **Reflect & Discuss**

### **1. Encountering Jesus**

- Where do you most relate in this story — Martha (questioning), Mary (grieving), or the crowd (observing)?
- When have you experienced Jesus meeting you in an ordinary or unexpected moment?

### **2. The Question of Faith**

- Why do you think Jesus asks, “*Do you believe this?*” before raising Lazarus?
- What makes it difficult to trust Jesus *before* we see change?

### 3. Life in “Tomb” Places

- What are the “sealed tombs” in your life right now? (e.g., grief, disappointment, doubt, fear)
- What might it look like to trust Jesus in that place?

### 4. Seeing Beyond the Visible

- Paul says we focus on what is unseen, not just what is seen. What does that look like in everyday life?
- How can we grow in noticing God at work even when nothing seems to be changing?

### From Reflection to Action (Discipleship Step)

This week, take one intentional step from **belief** → **practice**:

#### Step 1: Name the Place

Identify one area of your life that feels like a “tomb.” (unemployment, unresolved relationship problems, unhealed physical problem etc)

#### Step 2: Invite Jesus

Pray honestly about it each day this week:

“Jesus, I choose to trust you here — even before I see anything change.”

#### Step 3: Take a Visible Step of Faith

Do one action that reflects trust in Jesus. For example:

- Reach out to someone you’ve withdrawn from
- Offer prayer or encouragement to someone in need
- Start daily ACORN prayer “Lord is there anyone outside the church you want me to connect with” – see where God shows us. Share with someone else.
- Begin (or return to) a simple daily rhythm of Scripture and prayer

## Closing Prayer

Living God,  
you are the resurrection and the life.

Thank you that you meet us  
not only in strength, but in weakness...  
not only in certainty, but in questions...  
not only in joy, but in grief.

Lord Jesus,  
you ask us today, *“Do you believe this?”*

Help us to say yes —  
not just with our words,  
but with our lives.

Where things feel closed and lifeless,  
speak your life.

Where faith feels small,  
grow it.

Where we have been spectators,  
call us into discipleship.

Send us out this week  
to carry your hope,  
to live your love,  
and to point others to you.

In the power of your Spirit,  
Amen.