

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Living God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ you have given your people new birth into a living hope. May this hope, by the Spirit's power, encourage us as we study the Scriptures, giving us confidence that, in Jesus' words about the Resurrection and the Life, we may hear what You want us to know. We pray this in the name of the resurrected Jesus, Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

### **John 11:20-27 (NIV)**

*<sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.*

*<sup>21</sup> "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."*

*<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."*

*<sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."*

*<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

*<sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 6 *April 20, 2025*  
“The Resurrection and the Life”

## INTRODUCTION

Four days after Jesus’ friend Lazarus died, Jesus came to the village where Lazarus’ body lay in a tomb. Lazarus’ sister Mary said to Jesus upon his arrival “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Jesus replied by saying “I am the resurrection and the life.” This is one of Jesus’ famous ‘I Am’ sayings, but what does that statement mean for us today?

Despite Jesus predicting it multiple times, eyewitnesses were shocked to learn God had raised Jesus from the dead. And what God did for Jesus, he can do for you. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus rose first to confirm the possibility of resurrection, that Jesus’ resurrection was proof of the concept of resurrection. The question for us is: can we say along with Mary “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”?

## QUESTIONS

1. Talk about the first time in your life that you experienced the death of a loved one. How did you find hope in the midst of grief?
2. What’s something you remember happening that you would have never believed if had you not seen it with your own eyes?
3. Read John 11:20-27 (on page 1). What stands out to you the most in this passage? Would your initial reaction have been like Mary’s when Jesus arrived? Would your response to Jesus’ question ‘do you believe?’ been the same as Mary’s in v. 27?
4. If you weren’t a firsthand witness to something incredible (for instance, the moon landing), what would it take to convince you it happened?
5. Why do you think Jesus’s resurrection is such a big deal in Christian faith? What makes it the cornerstone?

## FINAL APPLICATION

What is one thing you can do this week to respond to Jesus’ gift of eternal life this week? How can this group help?