

**Bible Study 16 – Why does God allow tragedies? – John 11:17-27, 39-40**

After training His disciples for three years, Jesus was about to die, be resurrected and leave them and ascend into heaven. He had one more lesson to strengthen their faith (v.14). It was His last great public miracle; the raising of a dead man. Jesus was about 40 km away (one day journey) on the east side of the Jordan River (10:40) when Lazarus got sick and died. After being told of the sickness, Jesus stayed two more days (v.6). Jesus knew that Lazarus had died (v.14). This miracle confirmed that Jesus was God Himself.

<b>The context</b>	John begins with the incarnation & deity of Christ. Then there is John’s testimony, the calling of the first disciples, the first miracle, Jesus clears the temple courts, Jesus teaches Nicodemus, John the Baptist’s testimony, & Jesus talks with a Samaritan woman. Then Jesus healed people in Galilee & in Jerusalem, fed 5,000 men, & taught about the bread of life. But the Jewish leaders opposed and challenged what Jesus said. As Jesus continued to teach & heal, the Pharisees opposed Him.
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**PART 1 Read & write each section in your own words – Jn 11:17-27, 39-40**

Jesus arrives (v.17-19)	
Martha’s initial faith (v.20-24, 39)	
The source of eternal life (v.25-26)	
Martha’s final belief (v.27, 40)	

**PART 2 Things I discovered in this passage**

1. **What does it teach about God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit?**

2. **What does it teach about people?**

3. **Summarise a key verse in your own words.**

4. **In your opinion, what is the main point being taught in this passage?**

5. **Which other parts of the passage caught your attention?**

6. **How can we glorify God in tragedy (v.4, 40)?**

7. **Which parts of the passage were difficult to understand? What questions come to your mind?**

God sovereignly allows the timing of the trouble, trial and tragedy that comes into our lives so we can grow in faith.

## Obey

Since God's word is true, what must I change in my life to obey God?  
What must I do to obey?

I will
I will
I will

Questions to help me apply this study to myself

- Is there a *SIN* for me to avoid?
- Is there a *PROMISE* from God for me to claim?
- Is there an *EXAMPLE* for me to follow?
- Is there a *COMMANDMENT* or *MODEL* for me to follow?

## Share

Who will I tell about this Bible passage?

## Prayer

**Date:**

One thing you are thankful for.

One thing that's bothering you or causing stress.

Is there anything this group can do to help you?

Person	Prayer points

**Who needs help?** What can we do to help over the next two weeks?

Person	How will I help them?