

JOHN

Chapter 11

Note from Kathy

No one likes receiving the news that a loved one is sick. In John 11 we see two women suffering and sad because their brother is very ill. They do what any of us would do—they cry out to Jesus. What they did not realize is that God is going to use this illness to show his power and many will come to salvation because of it. When we look for God's eternal purpose in our difficulties and trials we will find hope along with his peace, comfort and strength.

Agapao (Love)

Unger's Bible Dictionary says of the word Agapao, which is translated as love, love can be known only from the actions it prompts. God's love is seen in the gift of His Son. But, obviously this is not the love of complacency, of affection, that is, it was not drawn out by any excellency in its objects. It was an exercise of the Divine will in deliberate choice, made without assignable cause, save which lies in the nature of God himself.

An Ancient Tomb



Observation

1. We are introduced to a man in John 11:1. Who is he, and what did you learn about him in verses 1-2?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. We read that Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus. What did they say?
3. What crucial piece of information did you learn in verse 5?
4. How did Jesus view Lazarus' illness?

5. When you read verse 6 were you slightly confused? What did you expect it to say?
6. The disciples tried to persuade Jesus not to go back to that area near Jerusalem. After reading verse 16, what do you believe they expected the outcome of this trip to be?
7. How many days had Lazarus lay in the tomb when Jesus arrived?
8. When Jesus nears the place where Mary and Martha live which of the two sisters does he encounter first? _____
9. Once again in this chapter we see Jesus refer to himself as "I am." Fill in the chart below.

Scripture	"I Am"
John 6:35,41,48,51	
John 8:12	
John 10:7,9	
John 10:11,14	
John 11:25	

10. Martha went to Mary and told her Jesus was asking for her. Mary went quickly to see him. Many of those who had been with her at the house followed her. What was Jesus' response to the pain Lazarus' death had caused Mary and the others?
11. In verses 36-37 we see many questioning why Jesus had not healed Lazarus' illness while he was alive. What fact did they know that caused them to wonder?
12. After a brief and comforting time with Mary and Martha, what does Jesus instruct the men to do?
13. Notice Jesus looked up and began thanking God for hearing his request and answering him this way. Why was Jesus glad the crowd was present that day as he called Lazarus out of the tomb?
14. Let's consider the facts they all knew. Lazarus had been seriously ill and died. He had been in the tomb 4 days. How did this event affect the people's belief in Jesus as Messiah?

John 11:36-37

"Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him.'³⁷ But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'"

John 5:18

“For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.”

John 7:1

“After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.”

15. Read John 11:4 and 45 once again. What was God’s purpose behind this difficult event?
16. Of course not all those present became followers that day. Where did the skeptics go?
17. According to John 11:46-53, how did the religious leaders respond to this event?
18. Passover was a required time for Jewish men to come and worship. The crowds were watching for the man Jesus they had heard so much about. Who else was watching for his arrival?
19. Previously in John 5:18 and 7:1 we read how the religious leaders were so jealous of Jesus and confused by his teaching. They were constantly debating and discussing how they might do away with him and appear justified in doing this. Verse 53 is a turning point. What has changed in the hearts of the religious leaders?
20. Review the verses below and list the miracles we have seen so far in John’s gospel.

Verses	Miracle
John 2:1-11	
John 4:46-54	
John 5:1-16	
John 6:5-14	
John 6:17-21	
John 9:1-7	
John 11:1-45	

21. List the various responses to Jesus we have seen so far. None are neutral.

Who	Response
Disciples	
Mary & Martha	
Lazarus	
Crowd in Jerusalem for Passover	
Pharisees	

Application

1. Lazarus was so sick he was about to die. His two sisters took it upon themselves to send word to Jesus in hopes that he might come quickly and heal him. If you were going to send Jesus a note with an urgent request it would probably say a bit more than, "Lord, the one you love is sick." What would your note say if it was a loved one of yours?
2. There are times our troubles seem to get worse instead of better. It may feel as if God is deaf to our cries for help. After studying John 11 what divine purposes can you see in any of your past or current trials?
3. In verse 9 Jesus contrasts the benefits of walking in the day versus walking in the night. When we walk in the light of day what did he say we avoid? _____ Those who choose to walk in the dark leave themselves open to what? _____

This is often easier to see when it is someone else. We may see a friend or loved one walking in the dark spiritually speaking. They are leaving themselves open to stumble. Are there ways that we might help? If so, share some of these ways in your small group. As a believer, what is the #1 thing we can do to help someone else?

4. Look back at the miracles we have studied so far in John's gospel (Observation #20). What effect has reading and studying these miracles had on you?
5. In John 11:16 Thomas tried to persuade Jesus not to go back into Judea. Thomas is often referred to as "doubting Thomas," because he insisted on seeing the hands of Jesus after his resurrection. But according to this verse what might we nickname him?
6. Martha ran out to meet Jesus when she heard he was near. She expressed her trust and faith when she said, "If you had been here, he would not have died." Her love for Jesus and her assurance of his love had not diminished just because Lazarus had died. She simply had a bad case of, "if only." Think of a time when you thought and said, "if only the Lord had...?"

Hebrews 4:14-16

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach God’s throne with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 5:8

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Philippians 4:4-8, 16

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ¹⁶ And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

7. Martha went back home and told Mary Jesus had arrived and was asking to see her. She went out very quickly to see Jesus. Like Martha, Mary was suffering from a case of the “if only’s” in her sorrow. Scripture tells us Jesus was “deeply moved in spirit and troubled” to the point he wept. When you are suffering a loss do you feel Jesus close and grieving along with you?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What lesson might we take from Martha and Mary and their suffering?

8. Did you notice the sharp contrast that is developing in this chapter? There are those who love Jesus with all their heart, and those with a rabid hatred for him. Little has changed; Jesus is very often a point of division still today. Does this surprise you? As believers, how are we to handle hostility and prejudice that comes our way?
9. Before we leave this chapter let’s remind ourselves of the fact that God was not caught off guard by any of these events. Read John 3:16 and Romans 5:8. Discuss in your small group just how much God truly loves us.

10. Wherever he went Jesus exceeded people’s expectations. He brought light into a dark world. He gave them spiritual bread and life-giving water. He forgave sins and healed those in need. He taught those around him God’s word and provided salvation for all. What are your expectations of Jesus?

What need are you bringing to him? Why not stop right now and talk to him about it? Read Philippians 4:4-8, 16. Whatever the need, Jesus is able.

MIRACLES OF JESUS

Permanent Disabilities Healed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Heals a Mute Man	9:32-34			
Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man		7:31-37		
Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman's Spine			13:10-17	
Jesus Heals a Lame Man at Bethesda pool				5:1-15
Jesus Heals a Paralytic Man	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
Jesus Heals a Man's Withered Hand	12:9-14	3:1-6	6:6-11	
Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac	12:22-23		11:14-23	
Jesus Casts Out Demons and Heals Many Sick at Evening	8:16-17	1:32-34	4:40-41	
Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind				9:1-41
Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Jesus Heals Two Blind Men	9:27-31			
Jesus Heals Two More Blind Men	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Jesus Heals Ten Lepers			17:11-19	
Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-14	
Jesus Heals a Man With Dropsy on the Sabbath			14:1-6	
Illnesses / Injuries Healed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Heals a Woman with Issue of Blood	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
Jesus Heals a Servant's Severed Ear			22:50-51	
Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Jesus Heals an Official's Son Remotely				4:46-54
Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret	14:34-36	6:53-56		
Evil Spirits Removed	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Delivers a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Jesus Heals a Boy with a Demon	17:14-20	9:14-29	9:37-43	
Jesus Delivers a Demon-Possessed Man		1:21-28	4:31-37	
Jesus Delivers a Demon-Possessed Man and Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
The Dead Raised to Life	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Jesus Raises a Widow's Son in Nain			7:11-17	
Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead				11:1-45
Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter to Life	9:18-26	5:21-43	8:40-56	
Other Miracles	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Temple Tax Placed in a Fish's Mouth	17:24-27			
Jesus Walks on Water	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:16-21
Jesus Turns Water into Wine				2:1-11
First Miraculous Catch of Fish			5:1-11	
Second Miraculous Catch of Fish				21:1-14
Jesus Feeds 5000 with 5 Loaves & 2 Fish	14:13-21	6:30-44	9:10-17	6:1-15
Jesus Feeds 4000 with 7 Loaves & few Fish	15:32-39	8:1-13		
Jesus Causes a Fig Tree to Wither	21:18-22	11:12-14		
Jesus Calms a Storm	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	

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