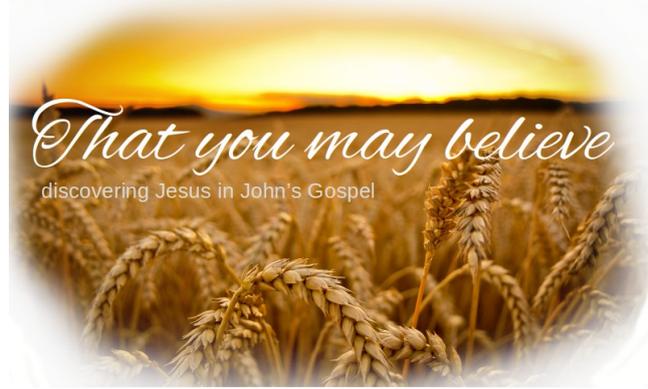


## Week 7: Living together



How can a good God allow bad things to happen? It is a question that is often used as challenge, and sometimes even disprove, of the existence of God. If we were to ask John that question, he would recount this story, when Jesus not only brought his friend Lazarus back to life, but also showed us how God can exist in the midst of a world of suffering.

### Read John 11:1-44

1. Verses 1-6 set the scene. Why did Jesus wait for two more days?
2. You are going to need to read John 10:22-42 to fully understand this. Why do you think the disciples were not keen for Jesus to go to Judea?
3. Compare 9:4-5 and 11:9-10.
  - What does Jesus say about himself?
  - What do you think Jesus meant when he talked about working in the light?
4. In verses 11-16 the disciples (men) struggle to grasp Jesus' meaning. Compare that to Jesus' conversation with Martha, verses 17-27. What does Martha understand about Jesus?
5. Jesus then encounters Mary and this time (32-39) Jesus engages with her on an emotional level. Why do you think Jesus was so moved?
6. Then Jesus does the unthinkable. He calls to Lazarus and he comes back to life.

### Deeper In

We learnt from the healing of the blind man that the effects of evil are not restricted to those who deserve it. Bad things can, and do, happen to good people. In this story Jesus allows evil to complete its work. In Judaism and in Islam good and evil cannot co-exist, but in every encounter with Jesus good always triumphs over evil.

John declares in this story that you will never understand why bad things happen unless Jesus is there. Without Jesus you are left in the dark.

- Look at the story again. In what ways does the raising of Lazarus foreshadow the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?

This story is set within a challenge from the Jewish authorities for Jesus to declare if he is the Messiah or not v 10:24. Jesus gives them their answer and that now sets in place the final opposition to who Jesus is, **Read 11:45-57.**

- The chilling words of Caiaphas in verse 50 are interpreted by John as fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 49:5-6.

Next Time: John 19:28-20:8 – Believe