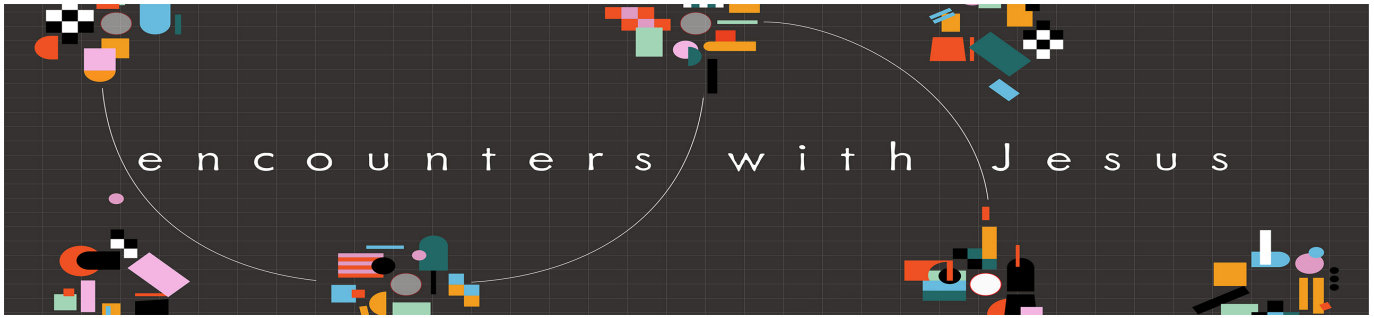




8/23/2026 | Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Reflect + Discussion

- As you think ahead to the fall, what's one thing you are looking forward to?
- Read John 11:1-6. What questions or emotions might have been going through Mary and Martha's minds at this point in the story?
- How do you usually react when God seems silent or delayed in responding to an urgent situation in your life? How can knowing God sees a bigger picture change how we view painful waiting periods?
- Read John 11:17-27. Martha tells Jesus, *"If you had been here, my brother would not have died."* Have you ever felt that kind of honest disappointment with God? How can we bring raw feelings to Him without losing faith?
- Read John 11:25. Why is it vital that Christian faith isn't just about general abstract truths, but a direct personal decision?
- Read John 11:28-44. What does Jesus weeping tell us about how God feels when we experience suffering and loss? How can this bring us comfort?
- Jesus commands the crowd to *"Take off the grave clothes and let him go."* Even after receiving new life, Lazarus still had the wrappings of death on him. What "grave clothes" or old habits do believers often need help shedding after coming to faith? Is there something in your own life that you sense God may be prompting you to let go of?
- Looking back at this encounter with Jesus, what is one practical step you can take this week to live with a greater perspective on eternity?

Pray

Pray that we would grow in recognizing God's great love for us. Pray that we would sense his nearness even through difficult seasons of waiting. Pray that as we reflect on the story of Lazarus, we will be drawn to living with eternity in mind. Thank God for the eternal life we have through faith in Jesus, and that death does not have the final word in Christ.

Next Steps

Check out the [resources](#) page for links to several Bible reading plans and other helpful tools. Explore other opportunities for growth and transformation by checking out [courses](#).