



## International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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### John 11:11-16 Study Hints for Discussion

[Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further](#) are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The [Class Preparation Guide](#) includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the [Verse-by-Verse Scripture Handout](#), which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

#### **1. Why do you think Jesus called Lazarus *their* friend? What does it mean to you to think of yourself as a friend of Jesus?**

Because as a believer in Jesus Christ as the Messiah and the Savior of the world, Lazarus loved and obeyed Jesus. Jesus loved him first and befriended him first and Lazarus responded to Jesus as a friend. Lazarus obeyed the commands of Jesus, the commands of God. He was a friend of all the disciples because he was learning more about Jesus and obeying Jesus (and would soon learn more about Jesus) just as they would. When I think of being a friend of Jesus, I know that no matter what happens, He will never fail in His friendship toward me, and I hope and pray that I will never fail Jesus as a friend of His and those who love Him, though I am not worthy to be His friend.

#### **2. How can someone become a friend of Jesus?**

By turning to Jesus, by repenting of their sins and asking Jesus to forgive them, and by receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior with the intention of loving Him and obeying all His commands, for He has told us what it means to be a friend of His. In John 15:14, Jesus said, “You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

**3. Why do you think Jesus referred to or compared Lazarus' death to being asleep? How does that comparison make you feel?**

When we go to sleep, we trust God that we will wake up in the morning and be able to serve Jesus here in the world for at least part of another day.

When we die as followers of Jesus, we trust that He will wake us in eternity and give us the opportunity to live with Him and His friends forever. I like the comparison for when we die with Jesus, we have the assurance that we will awaken with Jesus. Death is not the end of our relationship with God but a new and better beginning with God the Father, with Jesus the Son of God, with the Holy Spirit, and with all Their friends.

**4. Why was Jesus glad that He was not in Bethany to heal Lazarus?**

He was glad because His disciples (and others) would learn more about Him and believe in Him and strengthen their faith in Him when He raised Lazarus from the dead.

**5. What did Thomas say to encourage the other disciples to go with Jesus? Would his words have encouraged you to go with Jesus?**

He said that they should go with Jesus even if it meant that they would die with Jesus. He believed that Jesus was the Messiah worth dying for and he had trust in Jesus.

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