

COS Growth Group Study

Series: When God?

Week 3: When God Is Late

Scripture: John 11:1–45

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we bring before you the places in our lives that feel delayed, unresolved, or painful. When it seems like you are late, anchor our hearts in truth. Help us trust your timing, see your glory, and remember that you are always working—even when we cannot see it. Strengthen our faith as we wait. Amen.

Icebreaker

Choose one:

- Share about a time something didn't happen according to your timeline. What did you learn?
- What emotions surface when you think about waiting on God?
- Have you ever experienced a delay that later made sense?

Sermon Summary

In this final message of the series, we examined the story of Lazarus in John 11. Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus that their brother—the one He loved—was sick. Yet Jesus delayed. By the time He arrived, Lazarus had been dead four days. From their perspective, Jesus seemed inattentive and late.

But Jesus revealed something greater. He declared, “I am the resurrection and the life,” showing that resurrection is not merely an event—it is a Person. Jesus wept with those who grieved, demonstrating His compassion, and then displayed His glory by calling Lazarus from the tomb. Sometimes God acts immediately. Sometimes He waits. In the meantime, we are invited to trust Him, believe in His power, and look for His glory even in painful seasons.

Key Takeaways

- God's delay is not God's absence.
- Jesus enters into our grief before He changes our circumstances.
- Resurrection is found in a relationship with Christ.
- God may allow a “that” to reveal something greater.
- We can trust God's heart, even when we don't understand His timing.

Understanding the Vision

1. Why do you think Jesus intentionally waited before going to Lazarus?
2. What does this story teach us about how God works through delay?
3. How does Jesus' question, "Do you believe this?" challenge your understanding of faith?

Personal Reflection

1. Where in your life does it currently feel like God is late?
2. How have past disappointments shaped your trust in God?
3. What would it look like for you to look for God's glory in your present situation?

Living It Out This Week

Choose one:

- Identify one area where you need to surrender your timeline to God.
- Pray daily: "Lord, help me trust you while I wait."
- Look for signs of life in a situation that feels hopeless.
- Encourage someone who feels forgotten.
- Reflect on ways Jesus has brought life from past disappointments.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life. When we feel like you are late, remind us that you are never absent. Help us trust your heart, rely on your timing, and cling to hope. We believe you bring dead things back to life. Strengthen our faith as we wait. Amen.