

It's Not Over Until Jesus Says It's Over

2026-07-12 • ADRIAN TOPETE



John 11

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus was sick, and he stayed where he was two more days. By the time he arrived, Lazarus had been in the tomb four days, and Jesus wept anyway, knowing what he was about to do. Adrian's line for the whole message: a delay is not a denial. God can be working in the silence. And notice the stone: Jesus told the people to move it before he called anyone out. Sometimes he asks us to move what is in the way first.

To get started

- What is the longest you have waited for news, and what did you do while you waited?

Looking back at the message

Adrian was open about his own business struggles. Warmth first; this one gets personal quickly.

- 1 Adrian kept saying: it is not over until Jesus says it is over. Where in your life is that easy to say, and where is it hard?
- 2 Adrian told about a couple who waited ten years for a child and stayed faithful the whole way. What did you take from their story?
- 3 Adrian said the silence you are enduring now may become someone else's testimony later. When have you seen that from the other side? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read John 11:1-6 and 32-44 aloud. Verse 35 is two words; let it sit.

- 4 Read John 11:1-6. The text says Jesus loved this family, and then says he stayed two more days. How does the passage connect those two facts?
- 5 Martha and Mary say the exact same sentence to Jesus. What is in it, and how does he respond to each of them?
- 6 Jesus weeps even though he knows what he is about to do. What does that tell you, and what does it not tell you?
- 7 Jesus tells the people to take away the stone instead of removing it himself. Why do you think it is written that way?

Bringing it home

Do not resolve anyone's wait for them. Some in the room are still in one.

- 8 A delay is not a denial. Does that comfort you right now, or does it feel like something said too early? Why?
- 9 Martha objects that there will be a smell by now. What makes a situation feel too far gone to bring to God?
- 10 Adrian asked what stone is still in the way. What kinds of stones do people leave in place even when they want change?
- 11 What prayer did you stop praying? You do not have to say which one. OPTIONAL

The group together

Lazarus came out still bound. Someone had to unwrap him.

- 12 Jesus calls Lazarus out, then tells the others to unwrap him. What is the group's job in that picture?
- 13 Adrian said it is easy to worship when the miracle comes and hard while you are still standing outside the tomb. How could this group help someone standing outside one?
- 14 Who in your life is in a long wait, and what would showing up look like from you this month?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one stone you would name, even just to yourself, that Jesus may be asking to have moved?

You might pray about

- For those waiting on something with no timeline
- For faith that keeps worshipping before the answer arrives
- For the courage to let someone help move a stone
- For a God who weeps with us and is not distant from the pain