

# Graves to Gardens

Week 1

BRBC Groups

February 18, 2024

**Scripture** | John 11

**Ice Breaker** |

1. If you had to choose, are you more of a 'possibilities explorer,' someone who loves to wonder about what could be, or do you lean towards sticking with what's tried and true?

**Going Deeper** |

1. Is there anything that stood out to you from Sunday's message, or do you have any questions?
2. Read John 11:1-16
3. What emotions or thoughts arise for you as you read through John 11:1-16?
4. What stands out to you from the text?
5. What do you think of Thomas's statement in verse 16? What do you know about Thomas from other stories and how might this statement shape our understanding of who he is?
6. Read John 11:17-44
7. In the story of Lazarus, Martha and Mary both express their "if only" statements to Jesus. Why do you think it's natural for us to resort to "if only" thinking in times of difficulty or loss?
8. What are some examples of 'if only' statements that you've said or heard from others?
9. Discuss the significance of Jesus' response to Martha's "if only" statement by declaring, "I am the resurrection and the life." How does this shift the narrative from despair to hope?
10. Why do you think Jesus wept with those who were mourning in John 11, even though he knew he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead?
11. Jesus challenges Martha and Mary to consider the possibility beyond their "if onlys." How can we shift our thinking from "if only" to "what if" in our own lives?
12. Jesus invites Martha and Mary to take action by moving the stone away from Lazarus' tomb. What are some examples of 'stones' in our lives that we need to move in order to trust Jesus and believe that He can bring life to dead situations?
13. How can we cultivate a greater sense of trust and faith in Jesus when faced with uncertainty or despair?
14. What are some practical steps you can take to grow in your ability to listen to God's voice and discern His invitations in your life?

