HOPE BEYOND PANDEMICS

Hundreds of thousands died of the coronavirus in some nations and millions worldwide. Family members were unable to attend the funerals of their loved ones, and some bodies of the dead went unclaimed—they died alone. Losing grandmothers and grandfathers, fathers and mothers, siblings, children and friends was a painful ordeal. Many who did not contract the virus panicked at the thought of being infected. In these times when people face the reality of their mortality, the Bible offers the reality of God’s hope and assurance.

According to the gospel record, Jesus resurrected three people during His earthly ministry. He resurrected the son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11–15) and the daughter of Jairus (Luke 8:40–42, 49–56) shortly after their death. Because they had just died, the unbelieving religious leaders claimed they were not really dead, that Jesus faked their resurrection. However, the third person Jesus resurrected, Lazarus, proved they were dead wrong. Lazarus had been dead, wrapped in linen and buried in the tomb, for four days. At the time of his resurrection, Martha had even complained, “‘Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days’” (John 11:39). There was no way to explain this miracle away!

The story of the resurrection of Lazarus contains precious gems of truth which prove that Jesus is God in the flesh, the Life Giver, truly the Resurrection and the Life. And the same Jesus who resurrected Lazarus lives today and offers the assurance of life eternal to those who trust in Him!
Read John 11 from the translation of your choice. Write out John 11:21–27. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

**Circle** repeated words/phrases/ideas

**Underline** words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

**Draw Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in John 11. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

With whom on the spectrum of believing and unbelieving characters do you resonate most? Why?

Why aren’t signs the most effective means for belief?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead06-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How does your theology on the state of the dead affect your perspective on God’s character?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead06-4
What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Luke 16:27-33  
John 12:9-11  
John 6:39, 40, 44, 54  
Psalm 13:3  
Jeremiah 51:57

What other verses/promises come to mind with John 11?

Review your memorized verse from John 11.
Where do you see Jesus in John 11?

How is Jesus your Lord, whether in life or in death?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/dead06-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what can be applied personally to your immediate context?

What can be applied by you socially, collectively, and communally?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/dead06-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

What did Jesus mean when He asked His disciples, “Are there not twelve hours in the day?” (cf. John 9:4)?

What did Jesus mean when He spoke about "walking in the day" and "walking at night"? How does walking in the day give us assurance of God’s protection?

What evidence do we have in John 11 that Mary and Martha did not understand that Jesus was the Messiah in the fullest sense of the word?

Why did Jesus pray to His Father at the sepulcher of Lazarus? Didn’t Jesus have the power in Himself to resurrect Lazarus without deferring to His Father?

In what two opposite ways did the eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Lazarus react? How are the same two reactions possible today?