

## Week Six: 'I am the resurrection and the life.'

### OPENING PRAYER

READ | *John 11:17-37*

<sup>17</sup>On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup>"Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

<sup>24</sup>Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

<sup>27</sup>"Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

<sup>28</sup>And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." <sup>29</sup>When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

<sup>32</sup>When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

<sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup>"Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus wept.

<sup>36</sup>Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

<sup>37</sup>But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

### DISCUSS

1. Each of Jesus' "I am" sayings reveal something to us about his nature as the ultimate life-giver. In this instance, as *the resurrection and the life*, how might we see that he does not just give life, but is life itself? How does Jesus give life by becoming our life?
2. Jesus' claim, *I am the resurrection*, is mind-boggling. He says it is faith in him that brings a person back to life—unending life. That means He is the ground of our hope—unending hope. What does it mean to say Jesus is the basis of Christian hope? Why is this hope secure and undeterred in the face of challenging circumstances? Still, does this hope ever seem to wane or become hazy? Explain.
3. Jesus says, 'I am the life,' and *whoever lives and believes in me will never die* (v. 26). In other words, the life that comes through believing in Jesus is not interrupted by physical death. And yet, Jesus wept at Lazarus' death (v. 35), whom he later raises from death (Jn 11:43-44). In light of verse 26, why is Jesus grieved by death? What does this reveal of his character and the nature of the 'life' he promises his followers?

### APPLY

1. There is an intimate relationship between what we hope *in* and what we hope *for* in life. How might hope in Jesus impact those things we hope for? How does He not simply satisfy our hunger, but change what we hunger for? Why is hope rooted in Jesus, who is *the resurrection and the life*, uniquely able to weather pain and hardship (opposed to hope in other things)?

### CLOSING PRAYER

*Prayer suggestions:* > that in Jesus, 'the resurrection and the life', who through his own death has brought life and is life, we would see ourselves more fully as God does: perfectly loved and being made whole; that the gospel of grace would astonish us, and change us