



WARM UP

Waiting and Wondering

What Biblical character inspires you the most? (Excluding Jesus.) Why?

SET IT UP

In times of suffering and uncertainty, we are tempted to question God's love for us: "If God loves me, why is he allowing this to happen?" This was certainly the case for Mary and Martha. Their brother, Lazarus, was very sick and near death. His sisters sent word to Jesus. Yet when Jesus heard this news, he did not immediately go to see Lazarus. His inaction was not a sign of his indifference. It's just that there was a bigger story being written.

TALK IT UP

1. **When have you found yourself unable to fix a problem? What did you do?**
2. **Read John 11:5-6. What was the situation? Why doesn't Jesus' response make sense?**
3. **Read John 11:32-37. Mary and the crowds have the same question. What was it?**
4. **Have you ever wondered: "Where is God?" or "Why doesn't God step in?" What were the circumstances?**
5. **Where are you today with your questions? Did you get an answer?**
6. **Read John 11:38-44. This is what we expected Jesus to do at the beginning! Why do you think Jesus waited to heal Lazarus? (Hint: Verse 42.)**
7. **How has God used one of your "waiting room" seasons to help others?**
8. **How would you help a friend through their "waiting room"? What advice could you give? What actions could you take?**

WRAP IT UP

When the bottom drops out of our lives, it's really easy to believe that God has forgotten about us. For some, it isn't a single crisis, but a cumulative sense of disappointment from all the dreams that are never quite realized. In those dark times, our faith can be deeply shaken. That's when we need to remember: God's inaction is never a sign of His indifference.