

John 11:17–27; 41–45

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

John 11:25

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.”

John 11:25

There was once a missionary in Tirana, Albania, at the height of the Bosnia/Kosovo conflict in 1999. He was there as a part of the relief efforts extended to Kosovar-Albanians, fleeing Kosovo into Albania as refugees. Through a translator, he spoke with a Kosovar-Albanian woman who relayed her families’ escape from Kosovo. She said that her teenage daughter was not eating anything, and she was very worried. When the missionary asked what the daughter had experienced in their flight from Kosovo, the woman said through her tears that they had passed through areas where they saw Kosovar-Albanian children hanging from trees by their necks. The missionary was immediately gripped with sorrow and compassion and began to cry with the woman.

As the missionary and his translator left the family, after a time of prayer with them (though they were Muslim), the

translator turned to the missionary and said, “What you did was good.” The missionary replied, “What did I do?” The translator answered, “You wept with that woman, and she knew of your great sorrow for our people.” The missionary, through more tears, responded, “What else could I do? I had no words to speak.”

Read John 11:17–46. In verse 35 (the shortest verse in the Bible), it simply says, “Jesus wept.” After asking where Lazarus had been laid to rest, what else could Jesus do? The Bible identifies the Messiah as “a man of sorrows . . . familiar with grief” (Isa. 53:3). When Jesus did not know what to do, He did the most appropriate thing—He wept—identifying with the grief and sorrow of His beloved friends. He identifies with our grief and pain, also.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

Family members share testimonies of grief, including how they handled that grief and to whom they turned. *(Depending on the circumstances happening among your family members at the moment, you may need to be very sensitive to what is shared.)* Then, the family discusses what they felt when they turned to God during this time.

Explore . . .

Family members share in reading John 11:1–46. The family discusses: **How did Jesus show His concern and compassion toward Mary and Martha, and the loss of Lazarus?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **Who can we turn to in times of grief? Why would Jesus be the One we would choose to turn to? How can we encourage others when they are experiencing grief and sorrow?**

Pray together as a family that Jesus would take all of your sorrow and pain, making it His own, identifying with you, and showing you how to move through your grief.