

# Lazarus: When all you have is hope

John 11:1-46 This encounter is much more about the **faith** of Mary, Martha and the other friends of Lazarus, than of the primary character of this story, Lazarus himself. It's a very rich and multi-layered teaching on how faith works.

There are at least 7 layers of faith revealed.

- I. Encounters are moments that God designs to enable our faith to grow. (John 11:1)
- II. Be encouraged; sometimes it's the faith of others that brings about your miracle! (John 11:14-15)
- III. There's a direct connection between love and faith.  
*"For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love." Galatians 5:6 (NIV)*
- IV. In true encounters, the timing is God's and not yours. (John 11:6)
- V. Agreeing in faith is extremely powerful. (John 11:21, 32)
- VI. The compassion of Jesus often initiates his greatest miracles. (John 11:33)
- VII. Encounters are for your benefit and others!

## Small Group Questions:

1. We've established Encounters as a primary means to grow in faith. Why is faith so important to God?
2. How does it encourage you to know that the faith of others can be enough for your miracle?
3. Have you ever clearly seen the connection between love and faith as the passage reveals? Where are you developing these kind of "love relationships"?
4. Why are we so frustrated when God's timing does not seem to be the same as ours? What does this passage teach us about timing and triumph?
5. What are some ways that we can help others take off their "grave clothes"? What about our own?