



Week beginning March 22nd

Stretching into Hope and New Life

Opening Questions

- Looking back over the season of Lent so far, what has the journey been like for you this year? Have you learned something new about Jesus? Has a particular verse or passage of Scripture spoken to you in a fresh way?
- Have you ever found yourself in what seemed to be an impossible situation which God turned around in an amazing way? Can you describe what happened?

Getting into the text

Read John 11:1-45

- What do you think Mary and Martha hoped for when they sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was ill?
- Why did Jesus not go immediately to save his friend?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that this event happened so that God's Son would be glorified through it? (v 4)
- What emotions did Jesus experience in this passage? What does this tell you about him?



- What do you learn about Martha's understanding of who Jesus is in this passage?

Applying the Bible to your life

- In this passage Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' What do those words mean for you?

- Mary and Martha were disappointed when Jesus did not come at first and then saw their brother miraculously healed. It can be hard to keep the faith when prayers don't seem to be answered. What helps you to hold on to hope as you wait for God to act?

Something to pray about

In the Old Testament God spoke to the prophet Jeremiah and said, '**I am the Lord, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?**' (Jeremiah 32:27)

- Offer to God any situations in your life which you are struggling to cope with and where you are longing for him to act.
- Pray for events which have happened in the world this week where God's intervention is desperately needed.
- As Holy Week and Easter draw closer pray for opportunities to share the good news of that Jesus is the resurrection and the life with people in your community.