



The Lazarus Life: My Journey of Transformation

A Study Guide for Individual & Small Group Discussion of the Book and Sermon Series

Chapter One

(Week 1 - January 4)

I AM LAZARUS:

Finding Ourselves in the Story

Key Concepts

- ✚ We are all soul-sick and in need of transformation.
- ✚ Transformation does not come from earning love. It comes from being loved.
- ✚ Only Jesus offers us the life we long for.
- ✚ The story of Lazarus is the story of the Christian life.

Individual or Group Questions

1. Look at Giotto's painting on the fold-out attached to the front cover of *The Lazarus Life*. Throughout church history, artists have painted scenes from Lazarus' story. In your opinion, why would painters feel compelled to illustrate this story?
2. Of all the supporting characters in the Lazarus story and painting, whom do you identify with the most? Why? Choose from Mary; Martha; Thomas; the disciples; the Jews who believed in Jesus after the Lazarus miracle; the Jews who did not believe.
3. When we first encounter Lazarus he is dead: wrapped in graveclothes, stuck in a dark tomb, and smelling decayed. He's rigid and incapable of breathing. This description could also represent a person's soul-sickness. Does any part of your soul feel sick? If so, how would you describe this feeling?
4. On page 19, the author of *The Lazarus Life* describes how it feels not to be transformed. Why do you think we resist spiritual transformation?
5. Are you thirsting for something more in life? If so, describe it as best you can.
6. What areas of your life need transformation? List and briefly describe them. Most people harbor multiple needs for transformation, so please don't feel discouraged about listing several areas.
7. What hope does the Lazarus story offer to you and your circumstances?