



# Everyday FAITH Family Page

## New Testament 3

### Law/Gospel

In this life, I see and experience the effects of sin: sickness, injury, and death. **Jesus, who is the source of all life, will raise me and all who believe in Him to life with Him forever, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.**

### Bible Words

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die."  
John 11:25–26

### Fun Facts

The Bible says Jesus loved adult siblings Mary, Martha, and Lazarus, who lived together in Bethany, a small town two miles from Jerusalem (John 11:5, 36).

Jesus may have stayed with them when He came to Jerusalem for religious festivals, including the last Passover before His death and resurrection (Mark 11:1).

## Jesus Raises Lazarus

John 11:1–45

**D**eath, the result of sin in our world, is our enemy (Romans 6:23). God does not want any person to perish, but instead "desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). God promises the gift of eternal life to all who trust in His Son, Jesus, for forgiveness and salvation.

Mary and Martha expressed belief in this eternal life when they spoke with Jesus after their brother, Lazarus, died. Jesus promised eternal life for all believers (see Bible Words at left).

Yet Jesus felt very sad when He saw the sisters' grief. Jesus loved these three siblings and worked an incredible miracle when He raised Lazarus from the dead after four days in the tomb. Jesus promises this same miracle, a resurrected body, for all people on the Last Day.

Like Mary and Martha, we feel incredibly sad when loved ones die. We miss them and don't want to live without them. But heaven awaits those who believe in Jesus, and we'll see our loved ones again (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18). God knows our sorrow. He blesses and comforts all who mourn (Matthew 5:4).

### Burial Customs

New Testament era customs required families to bury a dead person on the day he or she died. Caring for the body, staying with the body, and mourning with the family were considered honorable deeds. In some cases, people hired professional mourners to ensure noticeable mourning.

Families maintained communal burial sites and buried loved ones with their ancestors. Loved ones prepared a body for burial, wrapped it in burial cloths, and sealed it in a tomb. Sometimes carved out of stone, tombs stood outside city walls.

Mourners displayed sadness in appearance and dress. They wore no jewelry and often tore their clothing. Men shaved their heads.

We mourn in similar ways today, yet with hope in Christ and the resurrection of the dead.