**Doubts & Fears #1: “Lazarus”**

*-Leader Guide-*

**• Intro:** Two reminders…

#1—Relative to serving and following Jesus, it’s more important to understand & trust His heart than it is to trust His ideas & strategies.

#2—As we’re exploring Jesus’ heart more deeply, it’s good to remember G.K. Chesterton: *“If you meet the Jesus of the Gospels, you must redefine what love is, or you won’t be able to stand him.”*

• **Say:** I need a volunteer for a special experience we’re about to do—one person…

**• Question *(Whole Group)*:** What are all the factors that influence you saying yes or no to this unknown volunteer role? *(Ask for feedback)*

• **Experience:** The Trust Fall—With your chosen volunteer, ask the person to close their eyes and fall backward as you catch him/her.

**• Question *(Whole Group)*:** What are all the factors that influence trust in this experience—from both the Faller’s and the Catcher’s perspective?

• **Story:** Share a story about a time when you broke someone’s trust—it doesn’t have to be a serious or intense story, just something real from your life…

**• Question *(Whole Group)*:** In general, what does it take to win your trust, and what does it take to lose it? *(Ask for feedback, write on whiteboard)*

• **Say:** In the John 11 story about Jesus, Mary, Martha, & Lazarus (John 11:1-44), Jesus has the ability, knows he’s needed immediately, but doesn’t come. Mary and Martha both know this, and Jesus shows up with NO explanation for His behavior… Let’s study Jesus, and the trust relationship He has with Mary and Martha, in the spirit of Sherlock Holmes…

**• Say:** Let’s go to John 11 again and revisit the story…

* **• Questions (Whole Group):**
* 1. What are the mysteries embedded in this story we’re trying to solve?
* 2. What can you infer about Martha and Mary’s trust level, both before and after Lazarus got sick and died? What is the nature of their trust—what is it built on?
* 3. What is Jesus’ attitude toward death, and life? What does, “I am the resurrection” really mean?
* 4. What do you notice about the way people react to Jesus in this story?
* 5. What do you notice about the way Jesus responds to the people around Him?
* 6. Why does Jesus pray out loud—what’s His purpose?
* 7. Lazarus had been dead four days, and the tomb smelled. Scientifically, what had to happen in Lazarus for him to walk out, then lead a normal life?

**• Video:** Watch the video clip called “Albus Dumbledore - Trust Me”

• **Say:** Dumbledore says, “Trust me.” But nothing about what happens to Harry Potter in the story makes sense. **Ask:** How can he trust Dumbledore when that trust doesn’t seem well-placed? On what do we base our trust in people?

• **Say:** I’m going to give you a great gift now, one that you’ll someday value as a treasure: Jesus is going to appear to let you down at your most desperate moment someday. He will not do what you expect or what you need. And you, like Mary and Martha, will be deeply disillusioned with Him. And it will be in this moment that your experience of His heart will be like life and death for you, just as it was for Mary and Martha… Learn His heart now…