



## CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	He is our Hope	SPEAKER	Ps Low Kok Guan
THEME	God Answers Prayer	DATE	31 Mar 2024

# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Although we know that we have hope in Jesus, we may lose that hope as time wears on and we feel like our prayers go unanswered. We start to wonder if God truly cares, or if He even exists. In this sermon, Pastor Kok Guan reminds us that Jesus is our Hope even in dark times of disappointment and death.

## HE IS OUR HOPE

Pastor Kok Guan focused on John 11 in this sermon. John, one of Jesus' disciples, had written this book to record Jesus' miracles. He hoped that by doing so, readers will believe that Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God (John 20:30-31).

In the Book of John, Jesus made seven 'I Am' statements—He is the Bread of Life; the Light of the World; the Door for the Sheep; the Resurrection and Life; the Good Shepherd; the Way, Truth and Life; and the True Vine. In the resurrection of Lazarus in John 11, Jesus shows that He is the Resurrection and the Life.

Lazarus had been ill for some time. Even though Jesus loved Lazarus and his kin, He did not visit him immediately. This made sense to the disciples, as there were enemies in nearby Judea who wanted to stone Him. However, to His followers' surprise, Jesus decided to visit Lazarus two days later.

Jesus explained this with a Jewish proverb: are there not twelve hours in the day? 'If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.' In essence, God has a timing for all things in life. Jesus was deliberately visiting Lazarus after his passing because by doing so, the glory of God can be revealed through Lazarus' resurrection.

Like Jesus, we need to appreciate and walk in God's timing and perspective. If not, we may feel disappointed and lose heart.

### **In Disappointment, Jesus is our Hope**

When Jesus arrived, Lazarus had already been dead for four days and many were comforting his sisters Martha and Mary. Both asked Jesus where He had been when they needed Him the most: 'Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.'

The sisters were blinded by disappointment. Likewise, we need to be wary of disappointment—it can cause us to stumble in our faith.

God's delay in answering prayers may lead to disappointment, but we must remember that His delay is not His denial.

### **In Death, Jesus is our Hope**

Jesus was angry that death had taken away Lazarus' life and hurt the people who love him. In 1 Corinthians 15:26, Paul wrote that the last enemy to be destroyed is death. In contrast, Jesus says that although 'the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

We have hope in Jesus even in the face of death and difficult obstacles.

In John 11, the word 'love' appears in active tense in verses 3, 5 and 36. Jesus loved the three siblings; he helped them personally and in unique ways.

Martha was a thinker who kept telling Jesus that she knew that her brother would rise in the resurrection 'on the last day'. Jesus therefore engaged her in conversation and encouraged her to believe in Him. Mary was crying violently, so He wept with her in solidarity to comfort her. Lazarus was dead, so Jesus resurrected him.

In our journeys with God, we sometimes see how He blesses others and wonder if we can be blessed in a similar manner. In truth, God loves us as individuals; he blesses us according to our unique needs.

## **CONCLUSION**

Christians have hope even in the face of disappointment and death because we have a living saviour. Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross for us. He hears our prayers and will answer us according to our needs, and sometimes, in ways we do not expect.

We should look to the cross and continue to believe that God will come through for us, while praying for our hearts to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

# QUESTIONS

1. Jesus helped Martha, Mary and Lazarus in unique ways. What are some unexpected ways in which God has answered your prayers?

2. Jesus said, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world.' In your understanding, how can we 'walk in the day', as Jesus describes?

3. What are some of your concerns or disappointments that you are facing today that you need to cling to Jesus our Hope for? Share them with each other and pray for one another.