

PART 5: WHEN LIFE HAPPENS: PIVOTAL CIRCUMSTANCES

INTRODUCTION

You will never be closer to God than the level of your faith. But faith is more than mere belief. It's something we put into practice. That's why Jesus said, "Follow me." In this series we'll explore five catalysts God uses to build enduring, go-the distance faith in our lives.

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 11:1-7 John 11:14-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. A pivotal circumstance is a situation that changes your life. What are some of the pivotal circumstances you've experienced, both good and bad?
- 2. Pastor Will said, "Sometimes Jesus not only allows pain, but even creates painful circumstances to grow our faith." Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- 3. Read John 11:4. Sometimes God uses pain, suffering, and struggle to grow our faith because to Jesus strong faith is more important than the vehicle that gets us there. Describe a time when your personal faith has been tested by pain, suffering, or struggle.
- 4. Read John 11:21. Can you think of a time when you've said "If you'd only been there..." to Jesus? What was the circumstance? Can you see now how God may have been trying to grow your faith?
- 5. Read John 11:22-26. What is something you **know** about God that you have had a hard time **believing**, or fully trusting?
- 6. What is standing in the way of you saying, "Jesus, I have complete trust in you regardless of my circumstance?"

Application Prayer: Lord, I would rather you grow my faith than soften my circumstances. I completely trust you to get me through this. I place my faith in you today.

"Lord, I would rather you grow my faith than soften my circumstances."