

SIX HUGE THEMES

LOVE. GLORY. DEATH. SORROW. RESURRECTION. BELIEF.

FOUR MIND-BENDING REALITIES

#1 Jesus purposefully allowed PAINFUL circumstances to occur that He could have easily prevented

John 11:3 So the sisters sent to him, saying, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”
“But when Jesus heard it he said, “This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”

#2 The purpose of pain—indeed the purpose of the entire universe—is to put on display the GLORY of GOD

“All things were created by Him and FOR Him” Colossians 1:16
“For from Him and through Him and TO Him are all things. To HIM be glory forever, Amen.” Romans 11:36

#3 Jesus’ love for His people might be something totally different than what we’re accustomed to seeing as LOVE

John 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

#4 Jesus promised to RAISE everyone from the DEAD one day, and He proved His ability to do it

John 11:21 Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

“Do you believe this?”

- **Do you believe** in the deepest core of your being that the difficulties and trials and hardships of this life, yes, even the tragedies and death Jesus has allowed, all have a purpose? _____
 - **Do you believe** that displaying the glory of God is the highest purpose and aim of the entire universe? _____
 - **Do you believe** that God wants to glorify Himself through hardship and difficulty, and your response to it? _____
 - **Do you believe** that your deepest joy will be found in glorifying God with your life? _____
 - **Do you believe** that God’s love for you is demonstrated not by making your life easy, but by using difficult circumstances to open your eyes to how glorious He is, so you will be happy in Him? _____
 - **Do you believe** that Jesus Christ truly has power over death? That He IS resurrection and He IS life, and that He not only raised Lazarus, but raised Himself as well that very first Easter? _____
 - **And do you believe** His promise that one day He will raise all of His people to life and they will spend FOREVER enjoying Him and each other in a place He called heaven? _____
- “Yes, I already believed this!”
- “I’m believing this now, today!”
- “I’m not really sure I believe, but I want to.”
- “I need to explore this more. I plan to continue coming to New Life to hear the message of the book of John.”