

**Leader/Host Guide for John 11:1-57, *The Death of Lazarus***  
**Week following Feb. 5, 2012**

*\*(please read the additional descriptions, instructions and notes on the yellow sample session format pages)*

I. Gather, Nametags, Welcome and Icebreaker

*Icebreaker suggestion: Jesus demonstrates his sensitivity to grief and pain in this passage. What are some ways you could imitate Jesus' care and compassion for others in times of great hurt?*

Opening Prayer

*God of Eternal Life*

*We thank you for Jesus, your only son who laid down his life for us. His compassion for Lazarus, Martha and for us reveals a love greater than we could ever imagine. You feel our pain and suffering. We can have hope in our suffering because we are not alone. We praise you, the battle over sin has been won and we have been raised into eternal life through Jesus Christ.*

*Amen.*

II. Bible, Sermon, Text Messages (Reflection Questions) and Faith in Action Discussion

III. Memory/Focus Verse Review

IV. Wrap up and Looking Ahead

V. Closing Prayer/Lord's Prayer

*God of Hope*

*Open our hearts to understand that life confronts death and wins. Grant that we may give and receive comfort and love when facing life's challenging circumstances. Remind us that we are never alone and help us to feel your mighty presence.*

*In the name of Jesus who is mighty to save,*

*Amen*

VI. Adjourn