

Current Series
**“Through the Eyes
 Of Jesus”**

February 28 to April 18

4. “Lazarus as Jesus See the Death of a Friend”

Message Outline

1. The experience of death in the living of life

Why do people see death as a great tragedy or the most feared of all enemies?

2. The way we see death and dying (see John 11:1-34)

- An inevitability in life that we resist and seek to delay as much as we can.
- When death comes unexpectedly or tragically, we wonder why God didn't do something to prevent it.
- When faced with death's reality, we try to find comfort in the promise of a resurrection.

Video Clip - The Death of Aslan

In the Chronicles of Narnia and the Episode entitled, “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe”, Lucy and her brothers and sister weep over the death of their beloved Aslan.

As in the experience of the death of someone we love, we mourn our loss and, along with it, the loss of all our hopes and dreams that were wrapped up in the one who has died.

3. The way Jesus sees the death of a friend (see John 11:35-44)

- Jesus wept.
- The death of a friend or loved one naturally and rightly brings sadness and a sense of loss.
- Death is not the final word on a person's life.
- Death brings into focus the purpose of life and its abiding meaning within the providence of God.

Video Clip - Aslan's Triumph

In “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe”, Aslan is the metaphorical representation of Jesus the Messiah. His resurrection offers hope and the promise of life that is abundant and eternal.

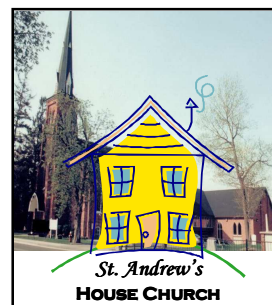
In the raising up of Lazarus, we have foreshadowed for us the promise of Easter following the death of Christ on the Cross.

4. To see as Jesus sees - beyond the grave (see 1 Corinthians 15:51-58)

- Jesus is the resurrection and the life.
- Death is not a fearful enemy when it is overcome by life itself.
- We will all be changed.

TAKE HOMES (points to remember)

- The inevitability of death doesn't make it _____.
- _____ over the death of a friend.
- Purpose and meaning _____ always _____ over death.



FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

We encourage you to discuss these issues during the coming week as a

- Study Guide for House Church
- Time of reflection individually or with members of your family

Warm-Up

If you were told that you are going to die tonight, how would that make you feel? Why would you feel that way? What would you do in light of that?

- Consider other instances where Jesus encounters death. (see Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 7:11-17) Why did Jesus raise these people from the dead?
- Martha said that if Jesus had come sooner her brother would not have died. Why do you think she thought that? Why do you think Jesus allowed Lazarus to die in the first place?
- In facing the inevitability of death, what should that teach us about the purpose and meaning of life?