

EMERGE

Session 4



‘Out of the darkness’

John 11:4-6,17-26

UP: Introduction

- What places in the world have you ever been to which could be described as ‘desert’, ‘wilderness’, ‘barren or ‘dark’? What was it like?

IN: Explore

There are many passages in the Bible about people going through dark or difficult times.

Psalm 136:16 is a Psalm of praise about his enduring love. Verse 16 says, ‘to him who led his people through the desert, *His love endures forever*. How do you feel about praising God for leading his people into difficult times?

READ John 11:4-6, 17-27.

- Imagine that you are with Mary and Martha, when you hear, while they wait for Jesus to arrive. What reasons for comfort or hope might you give?
- How would you describe Martha’s character from verses 17-27?
- How would you describe Martha’s faith both before and after Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead?
- How does this story give you hope for times of struggle that you might through?

OUT: Impact

Here are two questions for personal reflection:

- What practical steps could you take to ‘cling on to Jesus?’
- Are there things that you are holding on to that are stopping you to hold on to Jesus?