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| SUMMARY: Our lives are filled with stories, some from our own lives, other from what we see or watch or hear. Stories shape our lives but there is no story that should shape our life more than the story of Easter. But this is no fairytale this story is history, it’s a real account of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.In the Gospel of John, the author begins to set up this central part of his book by sharing the story of Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus. In what was clearly an untimely passing Lazarus dies while Jesus sits and waits in another nearby town. This same Jesus who has healed the sick and given sight to the blind willingly lets his friend die! What is he doing?Two days after hearing the news Jesus decides to return. His disciples are afraid because in the previous chapter he had just escaped the clutches of those who wanted to see him dead in the very same region. Jesus though knows that there is still work to be done.When he arrives, he is met separately by Lazarus’ two sisters, Martha and Mary. Both sisters question Jesus tardiness, why had he not come sooner? Jesus response to each sister is unique, he offers the truth to one and shares the emotion of the other.Then he does what he came to do, bring his friend out of the tomb. In a picture that shares similarities to what Jesus himself will soon face, Lazarus walks out, alive. There were only two options for those that watched on. Some believed others began the plot to have Jesus killed.  |

**John 1:1-50** |  |

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| The epic of Easter – The Prequel1. Apart from the obvious how has this build up to Easter been different for you?
2. How has the world’s present situation exposed humanities fear of death?
3. Why do you think the disciples had such a hard time understanding what Jesus said in v.4-16?
4. What do you think Jesus illustration in verses 9&10 means?
5. How does Jesus comfort Martha?
6. Martha says all the right things but do you think she understands what it all means yet? Why?
7. How does Jesus comfort Mary?
8. If Jesus knew that Lazarus would rise (v.11) why do you think he wept (v.35)
9. Why does Jesus treat each sister differently and what can we learn from how he treats them?
10. Why do we hear nothing from Lazarus and very little about him from this point on?
11. There are only ever two reactions to Jesus, what are they and why do the stay the same?
12. How did this event prepare the disciples and even us for the events of Easter?
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