**Jesus in the Waiting**

**Week 1 – God is not absent**

# Matthew 11 New International Version (NIV)

### Jesus and John the Baptist

**11**After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23461a)]

**2**When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples **3**to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

**4**Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: **5**The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-23465b)] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. **6**Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

# Matthew 4 New International Version (NIV)

### Jesus Begins to Preach

**12**When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee.**13**Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum

# John 11 New International Version (NIV)

### The Death of Lazarus

**11**Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.)**3**So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

**4**When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” **5**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

Read Attached Sermon.

**Questions to help you reflect**

1. **How are you coping in the lock down?**
2. **Do you feel God is close or absent?**
3. **Can you remember a time when God was faithful and on reflection the ways things happened – was for the best?**
4. **What can we learn from Jesus’s obedience in going to the cross?**

**Prayer**

Heavenly Father

Be near me today, be close

Let me hear your breath and heart beat.

Help me to trust that you will never leave us or abandon us

Thank you for the cross and the truth of a great future with you.

Help me in the waiting,

Today and all days.

In Jesus name, **Amen.**