**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**June 24th 2018. Power encounters**

**Discussion notes: Raising the dead. John 11**

The gospels give us stories of Jesus encountering all kinds of people. Many of those people had real needs and their encounter with Jesus turned out to be a ‘power encounter.’ In Jesus, the ‘powers of the age to come’ broke into their lives in healing, deliverance, provision and challenge. The power encounters we read about serve as an encouragement of the grace of God, but also a challenge to us about living a spirit empowered life.

1. In verses 5 & 6 of John 11, when Jesus learns that Lazarus who he loves is sick, he stays where he is and doesn’t go to heal him. Why not?
2. How does Jesus respond to the grief and challenge of Martha and Mary about his absence? Have you ever expressed to God disappointment because of a sense of his absence, as Martha and Mary do?
3. Why did Jesus weep (v 35)?
4. We often link faith with the release of miraculous power. Who had faith in this account?
5. What is the difference between a power encounter and a truth encounter? (vv 23-27)?
6. As well as being a miracle in its own right, what does the raising of Lazarus point to?
7. Why does this miracle provoke resistance? (v 53)

One day we will rise from the dead physically and even now have been granted spiritual life instead of spiritual death. What does it mean to remove ‘graveclothes’ in these circumstances? . What should our practice be about praying for dead people to come back to life when we encounter death today?