



## TALK IT OVER

Delay by Design

### BOTTOM LINE

A good God exists in the midst of trial and suffering.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

If you were a superhero, what would your superpower be and why? Do you consider yourself to be patient? How long would you wait in a doctor's office without getting frustrated? How long would you stay on hold on a phone call?

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

### RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily)
- A brief helpful article on [Jesus Wept](#)

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*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."*  
John 11:4 NIV

*When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died."* John 11:20-21 NIV

When Jesus hears their urgent request, He reacts in a surprising manner. He delays. That's how it goes sometimes. You bring your problem to the Lord, and what you receive in return is silence. You call on Him, expecting Him to answer and meet your need, and all you get in return is nothing. Sometimes the problems get worse. Sometimes situations turn desperate. Sometimes you need an answer today, but it doesn't come today, or even tomorrow. But here is what we need to remember in times of divine silence: The Lord was able to see what the sisters and the disciples could not see. He could see beyond the crisis of the moment to the glory God would receive **through** the crisis. He knew what was on the other side of the pain, the problems, and the pressure. He knew the outcome before the crisis even reached its peak.

### TALK IT OVER

When have you had an insurmountable problem and Jesus seemed to just let you hang there for a while? How did you handle it? Why do you think we easily believe our faith in Christ should mean immunity from problems? What should we do in the gap between the inconceivable promises and the incredible power of God coming through? What and where is the hope when your Lazarus stays dead? Why do you think Jesus wept? How do you experience His compassion now?

### ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I will go to Jesus with my insurmountable problem, rely on His promises, and trust His power to do what is right for me. I will not allow my confusion or pain to turn me from Jesus.

My Action Step: \_\_\_\_\_