



RESURRECTION LIFE

A key element of discipleship together is knowing each other well. Invite someone from the group to share their *faith story* or *evidences of God's grace* that you have observed this week. The goal in sharing stories is to listen for things to celebrate and thank God for, and to listen for themes or areas of life to ask questions and speak truth in love, as we point each other toward Jesus. A helpful approach to sharing a testimony is to focus on life before Jesus, meeting Jesus, and life since coming to saving faith in Jesus. Then take some time to encourage and pray for the person who shared and ask who will share next week.

OPENING COMMENT

Jesus did what no one saw coming and what no one else can do: He brought a dead man back to life! And that's good news for you and me. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, which means He dealt with sin and death so that we can be forgiven and receive eternal life.

What big takeaway or truth from the Word stood out to you from Sunday's sermon?

READ THE TEXT: John 11:1-44

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ... (continue to read to v44)



1. Suffering Is Not Futile (v.1-17)

1. In the midst of suffering we rarely understand why. We often believe it is futile. Discuss some of the expectations that come to mind when you or someone you know, has been, or is in the midst of suffering.
2. Jesus did not immediately respond when he heard the news about Lazarus. Why? When Jesus did arrive, what was going on around him, what did he do, and why? From this passage what can we learn about God's character, His love for us and His ultimate purpose for us as we experience different forms of suffering through out our lifetime?

2. Trusting Jesus With A Heavy Heart (v. 18-33)

1. What does Martha & Mary's posture before Jesus teach us? Trusting in the sovereignty of God does not negate pain and sorrow and a heart full of questions. Look at and discuss the two different approaches Martha & Mary have: Martha's response and confession to Jesus and why Mary falls at Jesus feet. There are times when we will have heavy hearts - for some of us we're living there right now. What is your response and where is your hope found?
2. In the New Testament it teaches us that God uses suffering to remove our weakness and build us up - For encouragement read: Hebrews 12:1-17; Romans 8:18-30; 2 Corinthians 1:3-12, and 4:7-5:5, 11:24-12:10

3. In Jesus Death Is Not Dying (v. 25) (v. 33-39)

1. What are the ways Jesus responded to Martha and Mary's reactions? In every situation, good or bad, we have a choice to make, but the power to make that choice comes from God. Do you believe that? What can we discover about Jesus and who we are in Jesus, in the "I Am" statement (v. 25)? How does the "I Am" encourage you?

4. Jesus is The Hero (v. 44-45)

1. What do you see in the text that happened after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead?
2. Whom does the text focus on, Lazarus, the people or Jesus?
3. Knowing who God is, who we are in Jesus, and God's ways - Creation, Fall, Redemption as revealed in scripture - shapes our understanding during the trials of life. Biblical theology becomes a matter of life and death, it is about living in Jesus with an eternal perspective. Through sickness and in health, even in death Jesus is



our hero! Take time to pray that we would be people who desire to hear from God through His Word.

CONCLUSION

Believing that Jesus brings the dead to life, Jesus heals people, Jesus takes away the sins of those who sincerely repent - May we worship Jesus rightly. May we look to Him today and live. May we look to Him for eternal life - Jesus is the Hero!

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this text and your discussion around it.
- Pray for God's leading for your Life Group that he may identify a mission field for you to engage in together. Thank God for specific ways your group is like family to you and how they show you different aspects of the love of God and challenge you as a disciple of Jesus.
- Pray over any questions that may arise from the text regarding pain and suffering that we may be experiencing.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

