

The Gospel Of John

ICEBREAKER

Would you say you cry easily?

Scale: "Publix commercials" (easily) to "not even when I broke a bone" (not easily).

CONTEXT

Jesus arrived in Bethany after Lazarus had been dead for four days. Martha and Mary speak with Jesus and show great faith in His ability to have saved their brother. Jesus is moved to tears as He grieves the death of his friend, even as He knows what is about to happen next.

PASSAGE

John 11:17-44

DISCUSS

1. What have you learned from this text?

- What stood out to you as we read the text? Why?
- How would you have responded to Jesus arriving after your brother died if you were in Mary or Martha's shoes? Have you ever had a time when God's timing is significantly off yours?
- Why do you think Jesus grieved the death of Lazarus, especially when He knew the miracle He would perform in bringing Lazarus back to life? Why do you think John made sure we knew Jesus' response?
- Sometimes what we hope for in prayer does not happen. How does this

DISCUSS CONTINUED

passage give you comfort for those times?

- We see how Jesus enters this circumstance and weeps with His loved ones. Do you extend this kind of connection to others? Do you weep when they weep, love despite circumstances and flaws, and come to their aid when in need?

2. How will you apply this to your life?

- What has the Holy Spirit brought to mind for you to apply going forward?
- If we know Jesus as our Savior, we have also been resurrected to new life in Christ. In what ways do we function as if we are still dead and in the tomb? What does a resurrected life look like?
- What are some obstacles to applying these principles to your life?

3. How will you pass it on to someone?

- If someone asked you to explain why John 11:17-44 is in the Bible, what would you tell them? Why?
- How can you comfort a struggling or hurting believer this week?

NEXT STEPS

Take time as a group to pray for the people in your lives that are hurting, struggling, or experiencing loss. Is there some way you can serve one of the people mentioned?

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