

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Jesus Encounters Series “Jesus & Those Who Grieve” – John 11:1-48

FELLOWSHIP

Growing up there is a sense of invincibility. Through each trip, scuff, and bruise this feeling becomes tempered by life's fragileness. Becoming a parent, one brings to bear all those mistakes to try and now protect their own child from getting hurt. But unfortunately, it seems only through those episodes of pain or loss that we begin to place value on health and life. My grandpa's wake was the first time I experienced the vacancy of an ended relationship. I saw someone I loved, whose personality I was used to, no longer animating his body. The breath of life, the specialness of our relationship was gone. The story of John chapter eleven recounts a loss to a friend and family member. There was no doubt that Lazarus had died, and the process of dealing with the relational vacuum had begun. It is a tender episode in the narrative of Jesus, his followers, and on-lookers. The reader is allowed to witness the range of emotion and questioning that comes when one experiences death. The writer even takes time in several places to make sure Jesus' own grief is recorded. When Jesus offers you friendship, let this passage remind you how seriously he takes it. Lazarus was his friend, and even Jesus felt his absence to the point of tears. To those family members and friends there at the site, Jesus' empathy and shared emotion helped carry and process their grief.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together John 11:1-48. Discuss your observations from the passage. What principles is God teaching, and how can they be applied? Mary, Martha, the disciples, the extended mourners, and even Jesus were all processing their loss in different ways. This week try memorizing vs. 25-26, they are worth internalizing and propose a question every person must answer:

John 11:25-26 *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*

- What can we learn about God's temperament from this passage? Find all of the skeptical questions or statements surrounding Jesus in this story. How did he handle them? How did his answers fit the need of the person? Why is it safe to talk and question God honestly? How has God answered these kinds of prayers for you in the past?
- Death is a very spiritual experience. For many, a funeral maybe one of the only times that some may ever enter a church. What personal loss have you experienced that God helped you? How did it affect your spiritual growth or your personal relationship with the Lord? When have you had an opportunity to help someone with their grief? How did it minister to them and you?
- Read through this story and mark how many times the concept of belief is mentioned either explicitly or implied. How many and what did you find? What were the obstacles to belief for some in this passage? What were the promises for those if they believed? What was to be the object of their belief? What was the final conclusion regarding belief? (v.48) What area of your life would you like your belief in God to be better?

PRAY

Everyone needs God's help in some area of their life. Read Mark 9:23-24. How can we pray for each other in an area we need more belief?



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Based on Pastor Brian Brodersen's message on July 2, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teachina/iesus-encounters/video/iesus-and-those-who-arrive/>