



Northland Christian Church Group Discussion Guide For the Week of June 19, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & support.

Connect

- Share about a time where you felt like you either experienced or saw a miracle!

Context

John chapter 11 opens on a family scene. A man named Lazarus is sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, are very close to Jesus. As Lazarus succumbs to his illness, Mary and Martha send for Jesus. They have faith that he is able to heal their brother. Grief is a part of our fallen world. When we experience death and loss, it hurts, sometimes unbearably. In our study of John 11 today, we see Jesus identify with us in our pain, then do something amazing to instill hope within us for the way things will be when he takes his authoritative stand over death. - Dr. Tony Evans

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Surprises, Takeaways, and Observations from:

John 11:1-45 NIV

"Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 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." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." 8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" 9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." 11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." 16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." 28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where

Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. 32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" 37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" 38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. - John 11:1-45 NIV"

Discuss

1. You have probably heard someone say something like this – “Death is just a natural part of life.” What do you think of that statement?
2. As you reflect on this episode from the life of Jesus, what stands out to you the most, and why?
3. In this passage, we get a wonderful picture of the person of Jesus. On the one hand, he is the Resurrection and the Life (something that could only legitimately describe God). And on the other hand, we get a moving picture of the humanity of Jesus entering a moment with tears, grief, and even rage. Which of these two aspects of who Jesus is speaks to you the most in this moment of your life?
4. How has God ever answered your prayers differently than you asked or expected him to?
5. Do you believe that Jesus is always working for your greatest good, even in trials? Why or why not?
6. How should the truth that Jesus is the resurrection and the life shape our lives here and now?
7. What do the details of Lazarus being dead four days (vs. 17) and in a tomb with an odor (vs. 38-39) tell us about Lazarus' condition? Is this an obstacle for Jesus? How does this encourage you today?
8. How does the fact that Christians will never taste death change your perspective on bodily death, or your fear of it?
9. Read [Psalm 56:8](#); [Psalm 34:17–18](#); [Psalm 62:8](#); [Psalm 103:14](#); [Psalm 147:5](#) to learn more about God's compassion and investment in the lives of His people.
10. What specific situation do you need to trust God to work out in your life? For what "miracle" do you want to thank God today?
11. Share about a time where you were moved deeply in your spirit to see God move in your life or in the life of others. What happened? How did that impact your view of God?

End Your Group Time in Prayer

