

JESUS & THE HEART THAT GRIEVES

JOHN 11

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Death is an enemy, but it was also destroyed—death died when Christ rose! As the resurrection and the life, Jesus has power over death and gives hope in grief.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Pastor Greg explained that we live in a generation in which people try to pretend that death is not real. How have you seen this? What is the Christian response?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 11:1-16

Life is filled with pain, sorrow, and the death of loved ones. In what way is the glory of God seen in Lazarus' illness and death? How does this help you have a spiritual and eternal perspective for your own difficulties?

God loves us even when we suffer. How do Mary and Martha's actions provide an example of what we should do in a crisis? Why should you call on the Lord (Psalm 46:1-3, 10)?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 11:17-27

Why does the resurrection of Jesus necessitate a response? How have you personally responded to Jesus' question (v.25-26)?

Pastor Greg shared that we live on promises, not explanations. How did Mary and Martha bring their doubts to Jesus? How have you brought your doubts to the Lord?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 11:28 - 37

Why did Jesus weep? What does this reveal about the heart and mission of Jesus?

Jesus weeps with us in our times of pain. Death breaks God's heart just as it breaks ours. How do the two simple words, "Jesus wept," bring you comfort?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 11:38 - 46

What was Jesus mad at? How does this reveal Jesus' feelings toward human suffering and death?

God can be glorified through human suffering and bring good out of bad. What is the connection between believing and seeing the glory of God (v.40)? How have you seen God's glory in difficult circumstances?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Pastor Greg said, "Even though we cannot see how the situation will end or why it has come upon us, we can know it flows from the love of God and is controlled by Him." How can you be assured of God's sovereignty and love in all things? Practically, how do you recall this truth in difficult times?

How can Jesus' example help you bring comfort and love to those who mourn?

PRAYER

Give thanks for Jesus' power over death. Intercede on behalf of those who are hurting. Ask for God's glory to be made known in all your circumstances. Praise God that He gives hope to the grieving heart.