



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- If you could meet a deceased person (except Jesus), who would it be and why?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

As we come to chapter 11, we get a picture of Jesus doing ministry in the real world. Last week, we heard the voice of the Shepherd, and this week we get to see the heart of the Shepherd. This chapter is a perfect picture of Jesus' divinity and humanity, and shows us how God feels about sickness and death.

As a group, read John 11:1-44.

1. What stands out the most to you in this passage?
2. If your best friend did not come when you needed him/her, how would you feel?
 - Why do you think Jesus delayed two days before going to Bethany?
3. What are some of the reasons Jesus got so emotional at the tomb of Lazarus?
 - The Greek word for "Deeply moved" (v.33 & 38) most often refers to anger or rage like the snort of a horse. The word for "troubled" (v 33) means agitated like the tossing waves of the sea.
 - Why is Jesus angered and agitated?
 - If Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus (v11), how do you account for his weeping (v.35)?
4. Of the five stages of grief, where were (1) Thomas, (2) Martha on Jesus' arrival, (3) Mary at the tomb, (4) Jesus at the tomb, (5) some of the Jews (v.37)
 - a. Denial/isolation: He is not really dead.
 - b. Anger: He's dead and you let him die
 - c. Bargaining: If you'll do this, I'll do that.
 - d. Depression: I don't want to talk about it.
 - e. Acceptance: He's dead and is time to move on.
5. Have you ever asked, "God, where are You?" or "Why is this happening?" What were the circumstances of your situation? What did you learn through that process?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 7:10. What is the difference between godly grief and worldly grief?
7. Jesus has a raging love for us. He defeated sin and death and walked out of the tomb. How does this truth influence how you live?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

Choose one or two of these four statements that resonates or speaks more into your life right now.

#1: I will not judge Jesus' love by my immediate circumstances.

Do you let your immediate circumstances negatively effect your opinion of God and His love for you?

#2: I will trust God to be sovereign over my disappointments and my joys.

I will be more consistent in my faith and joy through good and bad times.

#3: Death is a defeated enemy that continues to sting, but it will not destroy.

I will not fear. I will live with new hope and confidence because I know my Redeemer lives.

#4: Jesus' love is raging.

I know that Jesus charged into battle against sin and death with a snort of rage to rescue me. He loves me so.

Prayer:

- Take some time to pray over each group member's identified action steps and life issues.

Equip Your Mind:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ~ John 11:25-26 (CSB)