

“God Grief” Group Study

Season 3: Light in the Darkness, **Week 7**

Passage: John 11:1-44

Pastor Ryan Paulson

ICEBREAKER:

1. Who was the oldest person you’ve ever met? How old were they? Did they ever share their secret to longevity? Tell the group about them.

As a way to get into the study, go back over the Sermon Outline from Sunday:

God Grief
John 11:1-44

Disappointment with God is often the gap between what we **expect** and what we **experience**.

God’s **delays** do not imply God’s **indifference**.

1. **Express** your grief **honestly**.
2. **Trust** his heart of **empathy**.
3. **Make faith** your **primary pursuit**.

Healing was the **foretaste**, but salvation is the **fulfillment**.



Learning His Way

(Every week in these studies, we will ask questions about the Scriptures that try to help us Discover the unique Way of Jesus that is found in the text.)

1. Read John 1-44
2. What did Mary & Martha expect Jesus to do when He heard the news that Lazarus was ill? Why would they have these expectations? Use Scripture to support your answer.

3. What did Jesus do when He heard Lazarus was ill and what does Scripture say is the reason?
4. Describe the scene in John 11:41 & 42 from the perspectives of Mary & Martha, the crowd and from that of Jesus.
5. Read Romans 8:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and Revelations 21:4. What do these verses teach us?



Forming His Heart

(This is the part of the study where we work on our own hearts. “How does my character need to grow and change because of this passage?”)

6. Write down the first words that come to mind as you reflect upon how your family of origin expressed grief. Share with the group.
7. Why did Jesus weep when He did within this storyline? What does this reveal about the character of God? How does knowing this inspire you to live?
8. As a group, make a list of life events that might make someone grieve. Eliminate nothing. All are valid.



Joining His Mission

(This is the part of the study that we ask, “What would God want us to do because of this passage?”)

9. What are some things that you are grieving? Practice empathetic listening and resist the temptation to offer solutions. Simply offer a nurturing space by listening with warmth.
10. As a group, read Psalm 69:32-30 aloud and then listen to the song *Praise You in the Storm* by Casting Crowns featuring Phil Wickham
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3acQhMMDN6w>

 Casting Crowns feat. Phil Wickham - Praise You In This Storm (Official Audio Vid...

General Church Announcements:

Need help? Life can be hard at times, but you don't have to go through it alone. Whatever your need, our Care & Counseling ministry is here for you in order to help, guide, encourage, and point you toward the love of Jesus.

<https://www.efcc.org/need-help/>

Protecting Our Children Seminar - Wednesday, October 25, 6:30-8pm, Chapel

<https://www.efcc.org/event/protect-our-children/>

*Surviving the Holidays Grief Workshop - Saturday, November 4, 9-11:30am, Chapel
Downstairs*

www.efcc.org/events