

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of March 7-13, 2021

“FACING IMPOSSIBILITIES”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

Have you ever had a time when you needed a friend and they did not come through? How did you feel?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read John 11:1-10. How did Martha and Mary refer to Lazarus in their message to Jesus? What do you think were they hoping that Jesus would do in response to their message? What did Jesus do instead? What can you gather about Jesus' relationship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus?
2. Have you ever asked God to do something – heal someone, change your circumstances, or something else – and he didn't do it? How did you respond? How did that make you feel about God?
3. Read John 11:17-32. When Jesus arrives, how long had Lazarus been dead? Why is this significant? At this point, do you think people had given up hope of Jesus arriving and performing a miracle? What do you think of Martha's and Mary's conversation with Jesus?
4. Read John 11:33-36. What does the fact that Jesus wept say about him? What do you learn about grief, where you can take it, and who can handle it based on the story?
5. Compare John 11:4 with John 9:3. Do you think this is a frequent truth about affliction or do you think it's a unique principle to Jesus' ministry only? What does it look like to glorify God in your suffering? Can you think of specific examples or scenarios?

6. When Lazarus was raised from the dead, how did the people respond? Read John 11:45, 53, 57, & 12:10. Jesus knew that he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. In spite of that, he still allowed those he loved to experience the pain and difficulty of death in order to glorify God. How does this change your perspective in life, suffering, and even death?

7. How do you react when things don't go according to your own plans? How can you respond better in faith?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

God uses the things he allows as much as he uses the things he directs.

- I will give God my pain and difficult situations.
- I will trust in God's sovereignty and love for me.
- I will set my eyes on glorifying God in my circumstances.
- I believe that Jesus is the Christ and my only hope is in his resurrection.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray that you will grow in your faith, trust and love for Jesus.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.