

### Ice Breaker:

**Do you like Easter Candy? Rate these in order of best to worst:**

Jelly Beans, Peeps, Cadbury Eggs, Robins Eggs

### Groups Discussion Questions:

#### John 11:1-5

**11** Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2** It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. **3** So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." **4** But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

According to Jesus' words in verse 4, why was Lazarus ill?

The first soundbite in the message was The Son of God can be glorified through illness. Do you agree?

Do you have an example from your life or someone you know that you can share with the group?

#### John 11:5-16

**5** Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6** So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. **7** Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." **8** The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" **9** Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. **10** But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." **11** After saying these things, he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." **12** The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." **13** Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. **14** Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died, **15** and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." **16** So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Re-read verse 5 & 6. What questions arise in your mind when you read this?

Jesus loved them...so he waited. How does that impact your thinking the next time it feels like your prayers are not answered right away?

#### John 11:17-27

**17** Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. **18** Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, **19** and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. **20** So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. **21** Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." **23** Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." **24** Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." **25** Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, **26** and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. **Do you believe this?**" **27** She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

We read these verses now after Jesus has risen from the dead. How do you imagine they would have sounded to Martha?

What does Jesus mean, *though he die, yet shall he live?*

Read verse 25 and 26 carefully. Do you believe this?

How does this affect everyday life for you?

### **John 11:28-38**

**28** When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." **29** And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. **32** Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." **33** When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. **34** And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." **35** Jesus wept. **36** So 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 also have kept this man from dying?"

**38** Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

Why did Jesus weep, if He knew He was going to raise Lazarus?

What does it mean to you to think that Jesus is moved by your sorrow?

In the message, Pastor Eric said that *Even though we believe, loss still hurts*. We shouldn't be misguided into thinking that if we have faith in Jesus, we can't grieve when someone dies. How does this impact your life?

## **John 11:39-44**

**39** Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" **41** So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." **43** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." **44** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

In verse 39, Martha voices a real, practical concern for Jesus. She probably didn't want the embarrassment for Jesus or those around. She didn't understand fully what Jesus was going to do. When in your life, have you been like Martha - telling Jesus why what He said to do isn't a good idea?

Martha believed, up to a point. She believed Jesus was the Messiah, but she didn't believe or understand what He was going to do right now. Do you ever believe in Jesus and what he accomplished on the cross for you but do not believe in His power in the regular days?

What did Jesus say to the people when Lazarus came out?

Jesus loved Lazarus! Why didn't He unbind him?

How is Jesus' invitation to the people to "unbind" the former dead man and "let him go" and illustration on how we are to treat people who were once dead in their sins but are not alive in Christ?

## **Prayer Requests**

## **Digging Deeper:**

### **1 Cor. 15:51-57**

*50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:*

*“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*

55

*“O death, where is your victory?”*

*O death, where is your sting?”*

*56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

What does the author mean by sleep in verse 51?

What do you think the change is?

Read Isaiah 25:8 and Hosea 13:14, how do these verses help you understand the victory Jesus won?

*\*Note to leaders, the Hosea passage end with a phrase that might seem strange to us. It says, I will have no compassion. This means that God will not have pity on those he is rescuing Israel from, and He will not regret or change what He is doing.*

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

What stands out to you in this passage?

Verse 18 says to encourage one another with these words. How can you do that?