

Week # 5
“Just Give Me Jesus” Series
Cedar Grove Church – March 13, 2016
Leaders Guide

“A Dead Man Walking”
John 11 (*The Voice*)
Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh



GROUP DISCUSSION:

(Focus on the questions you feel might be most helpful for your group. You probably will not be able to get through all of them. Change or add questions that better fit your group.)

NOTE: Today’s text (John 11) is from *The Voice* translation and is printed on a separate sheet which can also be downloaded from the website).

1. Why do you think Jesus delayed two days before going to see Lazarus, knowing that he was sick to the point of death (v. 6)?
 - Various answers may be given – but it demonstrated God’s ultimate power, even over death.
2. How do you react to Martha’s accusation that Jesus had not been there when he could have kept her brother Lazarus from death (v. 21)? What do you think was going on here in this exchange?
 - This begins to open the conversation about how we may **feel** God failed us in the past.
3. As a group discuss verses 25-26: ²⁵ *I am the resurrection and the source of all life; those who believe in Me will live even in death.* ²⁶ *Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never truly die. Do you believe this?* How significant was Jesus question at the end to Martha? What about to you?
 - This is a “faith check” question. Do we truly believe Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, Lord over life and death, the only way to salvation and life eternal with the Father?
4. Jesus knew who He was and that He was about to raise Lazarus from the dead. Why then do you think He wept (v. 35)? Discuss what it means to you that this verse is included in the Bible – that “Jesus wept” in the face of death and grief?
 - This demonstrates that God truly **feels** what we feel in grief and loss. He does care!
5. Has there been a time in your life when, like Mary and Martha, you had put your total trust in Jesus and you felt that he failed you? Describe that time and what you felt like.
 - Be ready to show empathy, care and encouragement as members respond.
6. Reflecting back now, why do you think Jesus did not answer as you asked him to – did not do what you expected him to do then? How does that experience still affect you now?

7. Pastor Kevin shared several arrows Satan uses to debilitate us. Have any of these affected you? When and how? Share an experience of how one of them applied to you.
 - a) Disappointment
 - b) Doubt
 - c) Discouragement
 - d) Despair

8. Four weapons were shared, given to us from the Lord, to help us overcome Satan's attacks. Have any of these helped you at some point? When and how?
 - a) Trust (Philippians 1:6)
 - b) Faith (1 John 5:5)
 - c) Hope (Romans 8:24-25)
 - d) Love (Galatians 5:6)

For your own summary, rate how these have affected you:

4 Arrows from the Enemy (Rate, Low to High) 4 Weapons from Warfare

Disappointment	(L) 1 2 3 4 5 (H)	Trust
Doubt	(L) 1 2 3 4 5 (H)	Faith
Discouragement	(L) 1 2 3 4 5 (H)	Hope
Despair	(L) 1 2 3 4 5 (H)	Love

9. "Is seeing believing," or, "is believing seeing?" Talk about the difference between these two and share what you think is the truth.
 - This gives opportunity to talk about the role of faith in answered prayer – that there are times when we will not see answers until we first act in faith. Lots of opportunity for discussion here!

10. Do you fear death? If you could be there for your own funeral, what would you hope would be remembered and said about you? What is the main goal of your life as you live each day?
 - Opportunity to nail down assurance of salvation here if you discern anyone is not expressing this. There is a natural fear of the unknown of death, but we can know here and now we have eternal life. Also opportunity to think about what we are really living for.

PRAYER:

Make time to share needs and close in prayer – also praying about any needs that may have been shared in the course of discussion. Pray about how each other's trust may be restored, faith may be strengthened, hope be renewed or love increased, based on what was shared.

It may be an idea this week to divide the group up into smaller groups, e.g. men in one, women in another, or in 2's and 3's, to allow for more sharing and praying. Seek the Lord's leadership for this.