

# Biblical Foundations for Powerful Small Groups

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were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. <sup>8</sup>He will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

<sup>11</sup>"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he

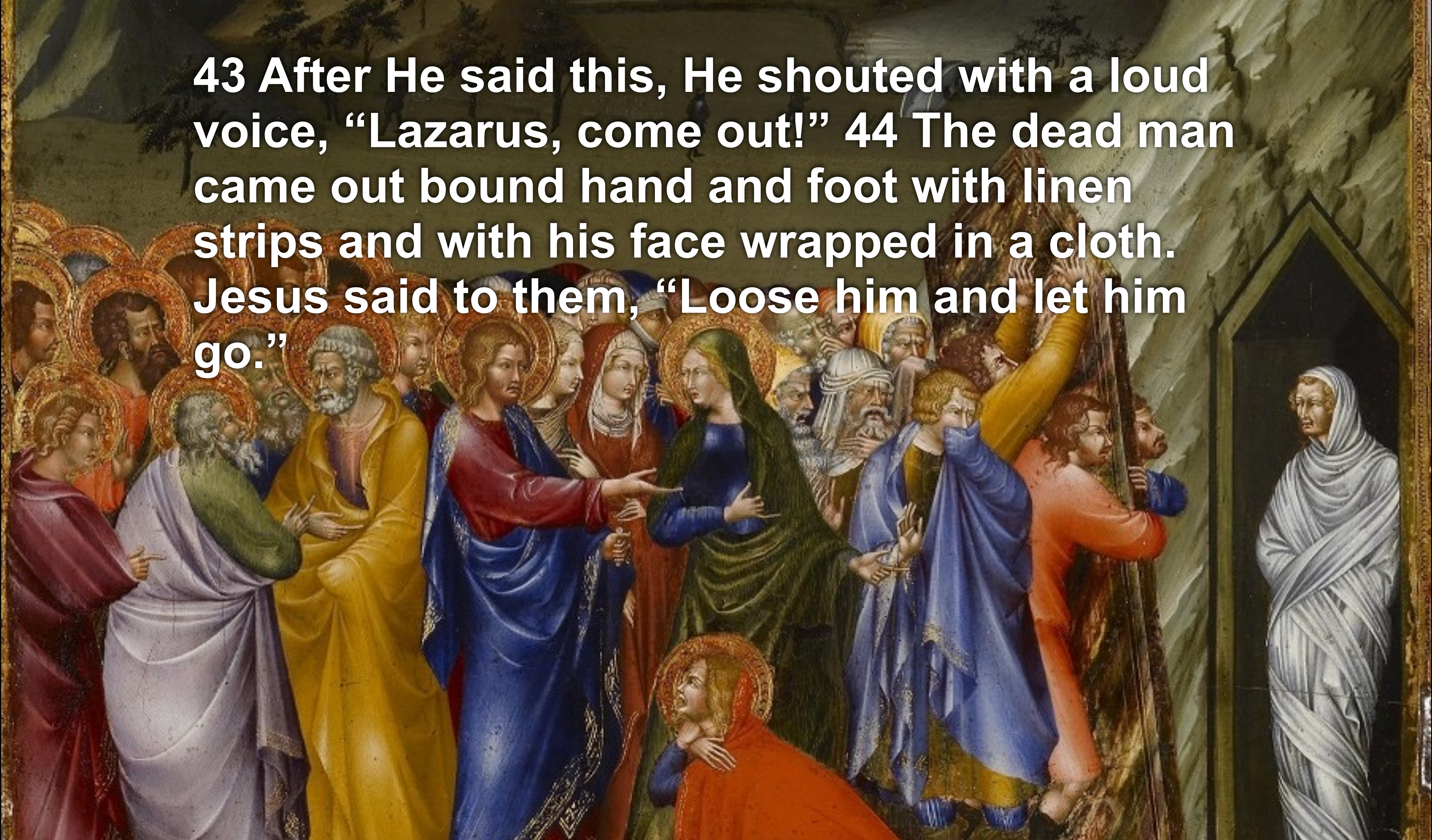
# God's Provision for Life Change

1. God's Word

2. God's Spirit

3. God's People (Grow Groups /  
Community Groups)

**43 After He said this, He shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him and let him go.”**



# Two Kinds of Groups at First

1. Open Groups
2. Closed Groups

# Open Group vs. Closed Group

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**An OPEN group is an ongoing group that anyone can attend and feel comfortable participating at any time!**

**At our church what are some examples of  
“open groups”?**

**A CLOSED group is a group of people who choose to meet together exclusively for an agreed upon amount of time to accomplish a specific goal.**



## A Grow Group or CG is NOT:

- A Support Group
- A Book Club
- A Social Club
- Another Bible Study

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# Grow Group & Community Group Defined

A **Grow Group** is a small group of men or women who come together regularly to pursue life change through abiding in Christ together.

A **Community Group** is a co-ed group agreeing to meet for fellowship & learning before breaking into gender specific breakout groups for accountability & sharing.



# **Our Hope for Grow Groups and Community Groups**

22 But be **doers of the word** and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man looking at his own face in a mirror. ...25 But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but one who **does good works**—this person will be blessed in what he does.

James 1:22-25

# The Culture of our Small Groups

1. Gospel-Centered

2.

3.

4.

# The Culture of our Small Groups

1. Gospel-Centered

2. Committed: Love God, Love One another & Serve the World

3.

4.

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

MATTHEW 22:37-40

# The Culture of our Small Groups

1. Gospel-Centered

2. Committed: Love God, Love One another & Serve the World

3. Confidential\*

4.

# The Culture of our Small Groups

1. Gospel-Centered

2. Committed: Love God, Love One another & Serve the World

3. Confidential\*

4. Progressively Transparent

# Functions of a Small Group

1. Life-on-Life Fellowship
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

# Functions of a Small Group

1. Life-on-Life Fellowship
2. Intentional Biblical Conversation
- 3.
- 4.

# Functions of a Small Group

1. Life-on-Life Fellowship
2. Intentional Biblical Conversation
3. Bold Prayer
- 4.

**Friends**  
**Relatives**  
**Associates**  
**Neighbors**

# Functions of a Small Group

1. Life-on-Life Fellowship
2. Intentional Biblical Conversation
3. Bold Prayer
4. Confession & Accountability

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.

JAMES 5:16

Q&A