

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Guest Speaker - Brian Edwards

Big Idea

Guest Speaker, Brian Edwards, from Hope Church, in Danville, VA, spoke on the difficult situations that we face in life. There are moments when we don't feel like God is with us. And in the waiting, there can be a lack of awareness of how God is working. All of us have the capacity to still have God in our hearts, while we lack Him in our view through these situations. This was what was happening as Martha and Mary sent word to Jesus that Lazarus was sick.

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. John 11:5-6 (ESV)

So, if Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus, why did he not immediately go to help them? When Jesus did show up, Martha confronted Him, but she didn't realize that Jesus was still the solution to her problem. When you understand God the least, that's when you need Him the most. When we go through difficult times, it does not mean that God is far from us, but instead, He is intimately in the details of our situation. Loving God and Him loving us does not exclude us from tough situations. His love is not proven by our wealth, health or anything else within this world. His love was proven by Jesus' sacrifice.

Discussion Questions

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this week's message?
2. Have you ever experienced a "why weren't you here, God" type situation? What did that moment feel like?
3. Did you ever feel the presence of God with you in that tough situation? Explain that feeling.
4. What are some situations that you experienced where God came through for you? How did that change your perspective of God?

Prayer Focus

This weeks prayer focus is to trust God, even in the times of waiting for Him to come through. Father, can we begin to not judge your love for us based on our health and wealth, but on the final act of the cross. And when we don't know what to do, we can tap into the source that guides and leads us into our next steps.

Next Steps

Have you ever wondered why you are on this planet? Find out who God has made you to be at The Weekender, this November 5th-6th. You can sign up to serve on the Rescue House app, from rescuehousechurch.org or at the Next Steps Center in our atrium.

Bible References

John 11:1-6,11-14,17-21,25, Job 23:2-4, Psalm 73:1-3, Matthew 14:40, Matthew 27:46, Romans 8:35,38-39