

YOUR NEW



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YOUR NEW DEFAULT, PART 1: FROM DEATH TO LIFE

We live in a culture where we've never had more options to choose from, but in many ways, we also feel chained down by those same choices. We can feel the pressure that comes from being tied to our job, to a broken relationship, to our past, to our financial situation, to inner battles, etc. No matter how hard we try, why is it so hard to feel free in our daily lives? We long to be better, but can we get past our default setting?

The Good News of Easter is, "YES!" We can experience real freedom in our souls and lives, but many times something has to give. It's going to get worse before it gets better. Something has to die.

BIG IDEA: Your worst moments are where God can do his best work.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We feel like our lives are good when we experience good things. What things make up a perfect day for you?
2. Share a story of a great experience that made your life good.
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read John 11:1-6.* In light of Jesus' love for Lazarus' family, how do you think Jesus' delay impacted Martha and Mary?
4. When things get bad, it's easy to doubt God loves and cares about us. Do you feel closer to God when things are going well for you or when things are difficult?
5. Why do you think many people don't ask God for help until they get in a desperate situation?
6. Why do you think Jesus waited until after Lazarus' death to arrive in Bethany? What effect did His choice have?
7. Raising a dead man was a much greater miracle than healing a sick man. What do you think Mary, Martha, and the people of Bethany learned about Jesus through His raising of Lazarus?
8. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read John 11:17-37.* Jesus showed up to a town that had no hope because Lazarus was already dead and buried. How do you think Mary and Martha felt when Jesus showed up after their brother Lazarus already died?
9. Can you think of a time when God didn't show up when you thought He would?
10. What significant claims does Jesus make in his response to Martha? What does Martha's statement to Jesus show us about her?
11. What do Jesus' tears show us about his character? How did Jesus' tears affect the observers?
12. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read John 11:38-44.* It's hardest to take God at His word in a hopeless situation. When have you felt hopeless? If you are comfortable with your Group, share a story about a hopeless time in your life.
13. Oswald Chambers once said, "Sometimes it looks like God is missing the mark because we're too short sighted to see what He is aiming for." What do you think Jesus was aiming for in this story of Lazarus dying?
14. Have you ever felt like God was a day late and a dollar short, only to discover that He was right on time? Share that experience with the group.

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15. Jesus told Lazarus' friends, "Unwrap him and let him go." Lazarus was all bound up in grave clothes, and he couldn't get out by himself. What grave clothes do you still have on from your former life? What is God calling you out of?
16. Has God taken something bad in your past and brought good out of it? Explain. God takes all the bad and makes it good. He's the only one who can do that.

MOVING FORWARD

Ask Jesus not to change your circumstances, but your perspective about your circumstances. Thank God for being with you and for you. Ask Him to give you faith to trust He is working to make good in your life.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Help your Group identify and take next steps with Jesus. Pray with them and for them, and ask about their next steps later in the week. Possible next steps:

- What circumstances are overwhelming you? Tell someone trustworthy in your Group and ask him or her to pray for you.
- Is there an area of your life that feels dead and hopeless? Commit to read Romans 8:28 every day for one week to remember God brings good out of all the bad.
- Do you know someone who's going through a difficult time? Call or write a note of encouragement and invite him or her to a oneChurch.tv service or invite them to watch online.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" John 11:25-26