

GROWING DEEPER

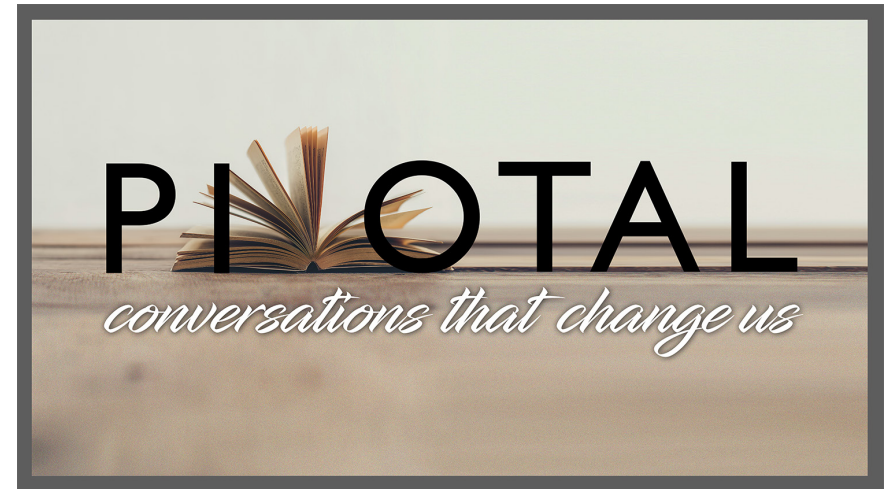
Who is the most famous or influential person you've ever had a conversation with? What was the conversation about and how did it impact you?

Read John 11:1-3 and discuss how Lazarus' illness might have impacted Mary and Martha? What did Mary and Martha do because of Lazarus' sickness? What does this response indicate about them?

Read John 11:4-14 and discuss what the disciples would have expected Jesus to do once He heard the news of Lazarus' sickness? Why is it so important to Jesus that God is glorified? Why is God's glory more important than our physical health? In what unique ways can only trials test and refine our faith? How is it that through trials faith is either refined to shine or exposed as ultimately empty?

Read John 11:18-27 and discuss why Jesus' response to the two sisters were so different. Jesus speaks the ministry of Truth to Martha; when her mind was confused, truth was needed. When have you needed and received the ministry of truth in your life?

Read John 11:28-37 and share your impressions of the powerful statement, "Jesus wept." Jesus doesn't push against the flow of Mary's heart's sadness, but enters into it with the ministry of tears. How have you seen and experienced the ministry of tears in your life? How can we discern the different between when we need to use the ministry of truth or the ministry of tears in a situation?



GRIEVING SISTERS

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WE EXIST TO BRING GLORY TO GOD AND HELP PEOPLE BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS

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*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,*

John 11:25 (ESV)

