



SMALL GROUPS

Life alone isn't living. We SHARE community.

BIG QUESTIONS - WEEK 3

THE GRIEVING SISTERS

4/22/18

Recap:

- ✦ Were you able to incorporate a meaningful time with God into your life this week?
- ✦ Did you experience anything different because of it?

Remind each other of your purpose (to glorify God and to love Him with all that you are) and begin to hold yourselves accountable for your pursuit of God.

This Week:

Our big question is, "Who is Jesus?" While there are many places in scripture that answer this question, we'll look at John 11:1-6 and 17-44 for this study. We'll examine Jesus' encounters with Mary and Martha, the grieving sisters. This is a large portion of scripture, but please read it together and try to imagine what it would have been like to be there with Jesus.

- ✦ Why didn't Jesus immediately go to Lazarus when He heard he was sick?
- ✦ Has God ever held off from answering your prayers in the way and time you thought He should?
- ✦ Knowing that God is able to do anything, did you feel "let down" by His supposed lack of effort on your behalf?
- ✦ Does considering the way God used Lazarus' death change the way you feel about difficult situations in your life?
- ✦ What does Jesus reveal about Himself in His conversation with Martha?

Now we turn our attention to Mary. Read John 11:2 to get a sense of her relationship with Jesus.

John 11:20 implies that Mary heard that Jesus was coming, but chose to remain in the house.

- ✦ About how long can we assume she remained there?
- ✦ When we examine John 11:28-29, 32, what can we see about Mary's state of mind?
- ✦ How did Jesus respond to Mary?
- ✦ What does this reveal about Jesus?

Practical Application:

How can we begin to understand Who Jesus is?

Big questions are answered in encounters with Jesus.

Martha needed truth. Mary needed tears. Both received what they needed in their encounters with Jesus.

- ◆ Do you recall any other Biblical encounters with Jesus that reveal Who He is?
- ◆ Have you ever had an encounter with God that revealed something of Himself to you?
- ◆ How did you feel about God after that?
- ◆ Did those feelings fade?
- ◆ What can you do to foster a sense of closeness and love between you and your creator?

Digging Deeper:

(Intended for private study and reflection)

It is very difficult to understand Who Jesus is without experiencing Him personally. Many times the experiences that lead us to the feet of Jesus are painful.

Watch one young man's story of pain and victory here...

<https://youtu.be/gmbX1-B8-XY>

On October 15, 2015 Jason died of brain cancer, but his life is still an inspiration. Let his story inspire you to intimately know the God that brings victory over death, truth over lies, and meaning to life. Invite Him to write Himself into the story of your life.

To hear more from Jason, check this out....

<https://youtu.be/aR23efBkMoc>