

THE NEW TESTAMENT Ephesians Luke Philippians Iohn Colossians 1 Thessalonians Acts 2 Thessalonians Romans 1 Timothy 1 Corinthians 2 Timothy 2 Corinthians Titue Gal

In this series, you are invited to read through the entire Gospel of John as we navigate the miracles of Jesus.

Follow along in our Daily Devotions on the Sunnybrook app or sunnybrookchurch.org for each day's reading.

© Copyright 2022. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version® NIV® Copyright © 1973 1978 1984 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Vibe Images/rudall30/ArtMari/releon8211/Shawn Hempel/Ariya J/Bagel Studio/Shutterstock

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WEEK 1	Water to Wine4
WEEK 2	The Nobleman's Son6
WEEK 3	The Paralytic8
WEEK 4	The 5,000 10
WEEK 5	The Blind Man 14
WEEK 6	Lazarus 18



Group Agree	ement	23)
--------------------	-------	----	---





Kicking it off:

Have you ever believed something without any evidence? Why did you believe it?

Big Idea:

What we believe about Jesus is evidence-based.



John 2:1-11

"On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him."

WEEK 1

Discussion:

Beginning with first-century followers of Jesus, trusting in Jesus has been a response to evidence—not simply in hoping something is true. The gospel writer John referred to the miracles of Jesus as signs that give evidence of who Jesus was. The first sign John documents is when Jesus—with a nudge from his mother—attended a wedding and turned water into wine.

- 1. How would you describe the relationship between faith and belief?
- Read John 2:1–11. How familiar is this story to you? Is there anything you just read that stands out as new information?
- 3. What are some details about this story that would lead a reader to believe that this actually happened?
- 4. How might you have reacted if you were one of the servants at the wedding and just witnessed what Jesus did?
- Consider the master of the banquet's statement. How might that be a foreshadowing of the coming shift from the sacrificial system to Jesus being the ultimate sacrifice?
- 6. What are some characteristics about Jesus that come to mind as a result of this story?
- 7. In verse 11, the apostle John describes coming to faith

as a process that starts with seeing actual events that served as signs of who Jesus was. Today, we can only hear or read about those events. Should the fact that we are not eyewitnesses to Jesus' miracles affect the process of someone coming to faith? Why or why not?

 Does looking at this story as a "sign" instead of just a "miracle" change anything about your view of God? How might it shape how you approach the miracles of Jesus?

Wrapping It Up:

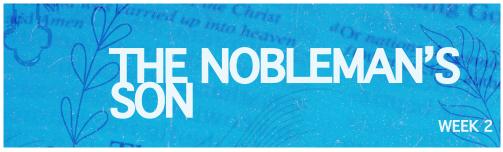
Share your thoughts about the following statement: The reason so many people are easily talked out of Christianity is because they were never talked into it in the first place. —Frank Turek

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those who received Christ as their Savior at our Easter services – that they may walk in faith and belief.

Memory Verse:

"What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him." John 2:11



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Do you know someone who has demonstrated faith, sacrifice, and commitment despite unanswered prayers?

Big Idea:

People believe(d) in Jesus because of what they see and hear.

Key Scriptures:

John 4:46-54

"Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at

Capernaum. When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. "Unless you people see signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." "Go," Jesus replied, "your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed. While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him." Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and his whole household believed. This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee."

"GO," JESUS REPLIED, "YOUR SON WILL LIVE."

John 2:23

"Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name."

Discussion:

- Read John 4:46-54. Discuss the differences between this second miracle that Jesus performed in Cana and the first one, when He changed water into wine.
- 2. What was the royal official's response when Jesus told him his son would live?
- Discuss what it means for you to "take Jesus at His word".
- 4. It is possible that the royal official was walking by faith when he returned to Capernaum as Jesus had instructed. But it took the realization that his son was miraculously healed at the precise moment Jesus proclaimed he would live, in order for him to believe. What differences do you see in the two?
- 5. What kind of faith or belief did the royal official possess in order to make his way to Cana to ask for Jesus to heal his son?
- 6. Was there ever a time

when your circumstances overwhelmed all of your typical boundaries and behaviors? If you are comfortable, share with the group.

- Have you ever had to "walk by faith" because an outcome was uncertain? Share with the group if you're comfortable doing so.
- Read John 2:23. Many people believed in Jesus because of the signs they saw. What signs have you experienced that lead you to believe?

Wrapping It Up:

Seeing is believing, or believing is seeing. To which statement do you tend to lean?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our kids' ministry and the many families who are being supported and cared for by our great team.

Memory Verse:

"Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, many people saw the signs he was performing and believed in his name." John 2:23



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Share a time where you got so caught up with following a rule that you forgot about compassion.

Big Idea:

Your religion is worthless when it gets in the way of loving people.

Key Scriptures:

John 5:1-10 "Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramais is called Batharda

Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had

been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

WEEK 3



Discussion:

- What are some of the flawed or legalistic views you carried around with you when you were younger? How have those views changed over time?
- 2. Read John 5:1-10. Discuss the ridiculous response of the Jewish leaders to Jesus' miraculous healing of the invalid.
- 3. What did they miss because of their extreme legalism?
- Discuss the invalid's interaction with Jesus, versus his interaction with the religious leaders. What might he have felt from each?
- The religious leaders of the day had taken to defending a theological system over the people it was designed to benefit. Discuss areas in your own life where you are tempted to do this.
- "If our version of Christianity gets in the way of loving people God loves, then we are at odds with God." Where have you seen this demonstrated in the past? How do we keep this from happening?

Wrapping It Up:

Discuss ways you can show love

in areas where rule following might be expected.

Prayer Focus:

This Mother's Day week, pray for moms everywhere as they juggle the many roles they have, and that today they would be affirmed in what they do.

Memory Verse:

"Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked." John 5:8-9







SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Have you or someone you know ever given up on faith or church because you "weren't getting anything out of it"?

Big Idea:

It's impossible to have a genuine relationship with someone you are trying to get something from.

Key Scriptures:

John 6:1-31

"Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where

shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who

had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the

people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of



God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

John 6:60-69

"On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to youthey are full of the Spirit and life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

Discussion:

- Have you been in a relationship where you or the other person had an agenda? How did it work out?
- 2. Read John 6:1-31. The opening verses of this passage state that people followed Jesus because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Later Jesus would say of the crowds, "you were looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill." Discuss the tension in each of those motives.
- 3. How might the signs Jesus performed have led to faith and belief?
- 4. In the story, the crowd missed the opportunity to just be with the Savior of the world. They were in it for the food and the work of miracles—consumers instead of followers. How do you see that at work in the church today?
- 5. What would it look like

in your life to be more of a Jesus follower than a consumer?

- 6. Read John 6:64-69. Later, John shares about the departure of many of those who "followed" Jesus. There was a line drawn in the sand between the crowd and the committed. Discuss Peter's response to Jesus' question of the twelve, if they wished to leave also.
- In essence, when following Jesus became hard, people left. Can you share about a time when you were tempted to do the same?
- How might you cultivate a heart that follows Jesus because of who He is, not for what He can do for you?

Wrapping It Up:

The more the disciples understood who Jesus was, the more they were able to follow Him despite hardship and later, persecution. What are you doing to grow in your understanding of who Jesus is?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those who were baptized Sunday to continue to grow in their relationship with Christ.

Memory Verse:

"Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:68-69



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

Share about a time when you were once blind to a certain truth, but later your eyes were opened to see it more clearly.

Big Idea:

We don't need to know and see all things to believe in Jesus.

Key Scriptures:

John 9:1-41 "As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground,

made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight.

WEEK 5

"He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."But others asked. "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him.

He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that



God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world. so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

Hebrews 11:1

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Discussion:

- 1. Read John 9:1-41. According to this passage, why was this man born blind? What insight does that give you to suffering?
- 2. Can you give an example of when you saw God demonstrate his power in the midst of someone's suffering? What happened as a result?
- 3. Discuss the Pharisee's response to Jesus' healing of the blind man. What does their response have in common with their response to Jesus' healing of the invalid in John 5?
- 4. Similarly to the religious leaders of Jesus' day, in the history of the church and Christianity, we have rejected people groups and individuals because we don't know where they could fit into our version of faith. Can you share some examples?
- 5. In Sunday's message, there were two different versions of a God box discussed. One includes those who want to understand everything about God before believing anything, yet don't hold to this standard in other areas of their lives. Another box includes those who practice

willful blindness or refuse to see what can be seen (e.g., Christians who refuse to acknowledge modern science or to engage with others who are not like them). Have you ever found yourself operating out of either of these boxes?

- 6. Do you know someone who has walked away from the church or their faith because of someone else's God box?
- Read Hebrews 11:1. How does this passage encourage you in those areas where you may be blind or see differently than others?

Wrapping It Up:

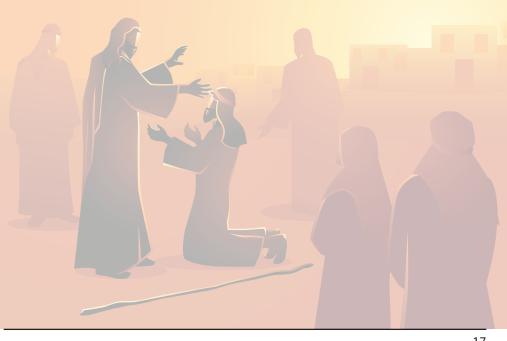
Pray together for the faith to follow Jesus even when you cannot see, and for the ability to have love and grace for those who differ from you.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our support groups who are meeting people in the midst of their suffering.

Memory Verse:

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1



LAZARUS

WEEK 6

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Kicking it off:

What do you fear most about death – either your own or of someone you love dearly?

Big Idea:

Death in Jesus is simply a door to something greater.

Key Scriptures:

John 11:1-48

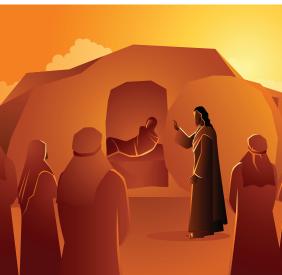
"Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard

that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that

we may die with him." On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her. "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The

Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this,

she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See



how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting

of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our temple and our nation."

Discussion:

- Read John 11:1-48. Have you ever wondered why God allows bad things to happen to good people? Discuss how Sunday's message might have brought clarity for you on this topic.
- 2. Martha's doubts weren't about whether or not Jesus could save Lazarus, but whether or not he would. Which do you struggle with most: believing that Jesus can or believing that he will? What experiences do you have of either?
- 3. What insight do you gain about Jesus' in His weeping at the tomb of Lazarus?
- 4. Think about a time in your life when you had hoped God would intervene and he didn't. Or maybe God did intervene, but it wasn't when or how you wanted him to. How can Lazarus' story shed light on your own situation?
- 5. Jesus' uses this occasion

to proclaim, ""I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" What insight does this truth give Martha?

- 6. What insight does it give you today?
- God didn't eliminate the evils of the world; instead, he placed them on the shoulders of his Son. How can this help us reconcile a good God in a broken world?

Wrapping It Up:

Death in Jesus is simply a door to something greater. How does this encourage you from day to day?

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those who have recently lost loved ones; that they will be comforted by the truth of who Jesus is and what He does for those who die in Him.

Memory Verse:

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." John 11:25-26

Tips for Leading a Small Group

- 1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3

Тор

- 2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place? Review and sign a group agreement.
- 3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
- 4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
- 5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
- 6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
- 7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
- 8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
- 9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
- 10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we:

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- - Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study



5601 Sunnybrook Drive Sioux City, Iowa 51106 www.sunnybrookchurch.org