

# COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Crown Him or Kill Him (John 10–12)

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### OPENING (5–10 minutes)

#### Icebreaker:

- Share about a time when something didn't go the way you expected—but later made more sense.
  - Or: What's one decision in your life that had a “no turning back” moment?
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### SCRIPTURE READING (5 minutes)

Have someone read aloud:

- John 11:1–6
- John 11:32–35
- John 12:12–13

(Optional: briefly summarize the larger story from John 10–12)

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### SERMON SUMMARY (3–4 sentences)

Jesus is not reacting to events—He is intentionally moving toward the cross, even when it doesn't make sense to those around Him. In raising Lazarus, we see both His deep compassion and His divine authority, but also that His actions increase opposition and danger. Following Jesus doesn't always make life easier—it often leads to harder, more costly decisions. Ultimately, Jesus brings everyone to a moment of decision: will we crown Him as King or keep Him at a distance?

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### KEY IDEA

Jesus' intentional love leads us to a personal decision—you can't stay neutral about Him.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### 1. WHAT JESUS DID (Observation)

- What stands out to you about Jesus' actions in this story?
- Why do you think Jesus delayed going to Lazarus?
- What does this story reveal about Jesus' priorities or mission?

👉 *Follow-up:*

Where do you see Jesus being intentional—not reactive?

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### 2. WHAT JESUS FELT (Understanding His Heart)

- What do we learn about Jesus from the fact that He wept?
- How do you reconcile Jesus' love (v.5) with His delay (v.6)?
- Which person do you relate to more right now—Martha (engaged) or Mary (withdrawn/frustrated)?

👉 *Follow-up:*

How do you typically respond when God doesn't meet your expectations?

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### 3. RECEIVING WHAT JESUS GIVES (Personal Reflection)

- The sermon said: *"Jesus is praying for you."*  
How does that impact the way you view your current situation?
  - Where in your life are you waiting for Jesus to act—and it feels like He's late?
  - Have you ever experienced something that felt like disappointment with God, but later you saw His purpose?
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### 4. FOLLOWING JESUS IS NOT SAFE

- Why do you think the miracle of Lazarus actually increased danger for Jesus (and Lazarus)?
- How have you seen following Jesus make life more complicated or costly?

👉 *Follow-up:*

What fears come up when you think about fully surrendering to Jesus?

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## 5. THE DECISION: CROWN HIM OR KEEP CONTROL

- Why is it hard to remain neutral about Jesus?
- Where do you see people trying to admire Jesus without surrendering to Him?

👉 *Personal Question:*

Where in your life are you:

- Fully surrendered to Jesus?
  - Still holding control?
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# PRACTICE (APPLICATION MOMENT)

## 1. Speak Identity Over Someone

This week, choose one person and intentionally tell them who they are in Christ.

- What would it look like to do that?
  - Who comes to mind right now?
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## 2. Return to Your “Jordan River” Moment

Take time this week to remember where God clearly spoke to you.

- What has God already said about you?
  - How might remembering that change how you face what’s ahead?
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### **3. Surrender Expectations**

Identify one area where God hasn't met your expectations.

Pray together:

"Jesus, I trust your timing and your intentions—even when I don't understand."

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### **4. Name Your Decision**

Take a quiet moment:

- Where do I need to more fully crown Jesus as King?
  - What would surrender look like in that area?
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## **PRAYER (Close Together)**

- Thank Jesus for His intentional love
- Bring honest emotions (like Mary)
- Ask for trust in His timing
- Pray for courage to fully follow Him