

# John 11:1-46

CG Discussion Guide// Week of May 14, 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: Share about one of your favorite family/personal summer traditions and why.
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Identity Church, Daytona Beach, FL (Pastor: Byron Cogdell)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What do you make of Jesus' choice to delay His visit to His dear friend Lazarus and His reasons for doing so: the glory of the Father and the Son, accomplishing His work "during the daytime," and the disciple's coming to further faith and belief?
- Obedience to the Father's will is costly, as seen in this passage: Jesus has to let his sick friend die, His enemies are seeking opportunities to eliminate Him, His dear friends are grieved (and possibly "feeling some kind of way") at Lazarus' death and Jesus' delay, and His followers' lives are also at risk. Yet Jesus obeys the Father's will no matter the personal cost.
  - What are some recurring struggles, personal costs, or barriers that you face in seeking to obey and glorify the Father?
  - How does Jesus' obedience and the result of His obedience help you to see your struggles in obeying the Father?
  - Could you share some personal experiences when you obeyed the Lord despite the personal cost? What was the result?
- One of my (Pastor Matt) favorite passages in all of Scripture is John 11:25-26. How have you derived comfort and hope from this passage?
- "Jesus wept." (John 11:35): Discuss.
- In a display of unadulterated power and authority, Jesus raises 4-day-dead-possibly-rotting Lazarus back to full life. What do you make of the responses of the witnesses?
  - What does it teach us that even with unambiguous evidence, some people will not respond in plain faith or trust in the truth? How does it affect how we share the gospel of Jesus and the power of His resurrection?
- If Jesus can raise the dead, what else can He do for you? If He can raise the dead, what can you do for Him? What CAN'T you do?

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## Abide Time: Psalm 16

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?
- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
  - What does the text say is true about God and his character?
  - What does it say about the world around you?
- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?
- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?
- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?
- How is God inviting you to live differently?
- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

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## WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

*The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.*

*That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.*

*Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.*

### PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

### PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

### PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

### PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- May 14: Mother's Day
- May 21: Redeemer-in-10
- June 7: Redeemer Women
- June 18: Father's Day
- June 25: Redeemer-in-10
- July 15: Membership Class

**Reminder:** All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.

## **SUMMER RHYTHMS 2023 (Off-weeks can be used for rest, hangouts, outings, outreach/service, etc.)**

- **Week of May 14: CG Week**
- ***Week of May 21: Off Week***
- **Week of May 28: CG Week**
- ***Week of June 4: Off Week***
- **Week of June 11: CG Week**
- ***Week of June 18: Off Week***
- **Week of June 25: CG Week**
- ***Week of July 2: Off Week***
- **Week of July 9: CG Week**
- ***Week of July 16: Off Week***
- **Week of July 23: CG Week**
- ***Week of July 30: Off Week***
- **Week of August 6: CG Week**
- ***Week of August 13: Off Week***
- **Week of 20 August: BACK TO NORMAL RHYTHMS!**