

Celebrate God in 2020 John 11

Getting Started:

- As a group, retell the story of the woman with the issue of blood from last week (Luke 8).
- The final week of May we will celebrate what God has been doing through this group. Take a few minutes to talk about how you would like to celebrate together.

Read John 11:17-44 or use the Bible Storytelling technique:

- List all the people who were grieving the death of Lazarus. What does this say about him?
- What did people say to Jesus when he arrived? Is there anything else that you might have expected them to say?
- What was Martha's response to Jesus's request to open the tomb? What are possible outcomes if she had refused his request?

Moving Forward:

- List some hard things that you have had to endure since March 2020.
- What is truth about Jesus that you have learned during this same period of time?
- Why is it important to celebrate the restoration that God has given us through this past year?
- What have we learned in this pandemic that can help other people navigate difficult times in their personal lives?



COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDELINES

Confidentiality

Keeping things that are shared in the group confidential builds trust and shows value to the person. Confidentiality can prevent gossip that only values the story; Jesus always valued the person above their story or their sin.

Don't Rescue & Don't Fix

When someone is sharing something deeply personal and/or painful there can be a tendency to try and make them feel better about themselves or the situation. Often this will cause people to stop sharing and results in their not going as deep as they might have gone. Resist the temptation to rescue people. Try to hear what people are sharing without trying to fix them. If they want your advice, they will ask for it. You may want to take time later to ask if you can offer some advice.

No Crosstalk

Be considerate of others as they are sharing. Don't have side conversations. Trust is built in the moments when everyone feels like they are being listened to and heard by the entire group. Treat others in the group as you would want to be treated.

Use Humor Responsibly

Fun is an essential part of Small Groups; however, when meeting in the Biblical Storytelling time keep sarcastic comments, jokes and laughter to a minimum to allow for an atmosphere of authenticity and vulnerability.

Give Everyone a Chance to Share

Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Encourage everyone to participate in group discussions.

Use "I" Statements

During small group, we want to hear your personal thoughts and perspectives. Using "I" statements to answer discussion questions allows you to speak for yourself rather than generalizing by using terms such as "them", "the church", "us" or "we".

Fight for Relationship

Relationships reaches a whole new level when conflict is resolved in a healthy manner. When conflict or sin issues arise between group members, commit to fight for the relationship and discuss the struggle with the person you are in conflict with or seek wise advice.