

Community Group Leaders Guide

Week of December 18

John 11:1-44

Today's big idea: We might have unfulfilled expectations in our lives but God is able to work his purpose in us.

- Share with the group a surprise gift that you received for Christmas. Do you have to figure out what you are getting or do you like the surprise?
- Unwrap the Community Group Guidelines together.

Bible Study

There are a lot of verse here! Most of it is dialogue and not all of it is critical to the story. In doing the Bible Storytelling just focus on the big ideas in each interaction (with the disciples, with Martha, with Mary, at the tomb) then you can pick up the details when you read the entire story together.

- Someone pray that God would help us hear from him.
- Use the Bible Storytelling technique to tell the story of the death of Lazarus.
- Retell the story together as a group.
- Read the story from John 11:1-44 in the Bible.

- What were Martha and Mary expecting Jesus to do when they sent for him?
- What did Jesus do that fulfilled their expectations and what did Jesus do that was unexpected?
- What were the variety of responses displayed in light of what Jesus did and didn't do?

Going Deeper

Once again, your group will follow your lead when it comes to transparency (being real with people) and vulnerability (being real about where you have been wounded).

- What has been unexpected in your life? Maybe something unexpectedly happened to you or maybe you had expectations when you were younger that weren't fulfilled as you anticipated.
- How do the responses of others impact how you feel about those unfulfilled expectations?
- How have you seen God at work in those unfulfilled expectations and how do you think God might want to work in them still?
- Close your time together by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.



Community Group Covenants - hfcog.org

Community Group Member Covenant

- I will make attendance a priority in my schedule and involvement a priority in my participation.
- I will build trust by holding in confidence those things shared in the Community Group.
- I will engage with a disciple maker—someone that will help me grow as a disciple of Jesus and teach me how to be a disciple maker as well.

Community Group Apprentice Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in the Community Group beyond group meetings focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Leader each week and meet monthly beyond group meetings.

Community Group Leader Covenant

- I will pray for the Community Group Members daily.
- I will accept the responsibility to invite and welcome others into the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple someone in or out of the Community Group.
- I will relationally disciple an apprentice focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, leadership skills they are developing in the group meeting and others they are discipling.
- I will seek to multiply the Community Group and not just grow the group.
- I will talk with my Community Group Coach each week and meet monthly.

Community Group Coach Covenant

- I will pray for my assigned Community Group Leaders daily.
- I will relationally disciple someone.
- I will call my assigned Community Group Leaders each week focusing on their personal relationship with Jesus, process group time and their progress with their apprentice.
- I will meet with my assigned Community Group Leaders each month.
- I will talk with my Community Group Pastor every other week and meet together each month.