

STUDY NOTES

UNPOPULAR THINGS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Loss, Grief and the Resurrection” on 11/12/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 11 (READ PORTIONS AS DIRECTED)

TRAGEDY FOR JESUS

Read John 11:1-4. The point of the passage is told to us up front. However, let us not miss how much Jesus cared for this man—Lazarus—that died. Jesus is not disconnected. He is a present God that cares for us. So the question arises: would God allow something to happen in this world for a purpose that we cannot yet see?

Evil’s “victories” are always short-lived and in reality, never really victories at all.

- *Share with each other something that you have grieved over or something that you need to grieve over.*
- *For some people, knowing that God is at work in bigger ways is comforting, for others, it isn’t comforting. How does knowing that God has bigger plans within the pain affect you?*

QUESTIONS FOR JESUS

Read John 11:5-8, 20-21. The disciples were worried and they questioned Jesus about returning to Judea because the religious leaders were hostile to him there. Going there meant that Jesus—and the disciples—would be in danger. Jesus went anyway. When he got close, Martha ran to meet him to ask him where he was in this tragedy.

God is okay with people asking these questions.

- *How have you found yourself asking God the same type questions in the middle of grieving?*
- *Why do you think God is okay with us asking these questions?*

JESUS GRIEVES TOO

Read John 11:32-37. There are two major responses after questioning God. We can allow God into our grief or we can turn on God and mock him.

- *What does it mean to you to know that Jesus wants to grieve with you?*
- *How do you need to allow yourself to grieve?*
- *Why should we not be surprised when unbelievers mock God in the face of tragedy?*

JESUS LEADS THE WAY FOR US

Read John 11:45-53. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, some people believed in him and others wanted to put him to death because they were afraid of Jesus. Ultimately, this event would lead to the plans for Jesus’ crucifixion where he was beaten, abused, betrayed, and abandoned by the Father.

He was the one who truly experienced the full impact of sin.

- *What does it mean to you to know that Jesus felt and experienced pain like we do?*
- *Why do we have hope because of Jesus’ victory of sin and death?*
- *Pray with each other to find comfort in Jesus.*