



Easter
John 11:17-27, 32-45

*These questions are provided to lead the group in **applying** the teaching from Sunday. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you in being a doer of God's Word. Challenge each other and be vulnerable as God works IN and THROUGH you together.*

1. Who has God placed on your heart to invite to The Table (1-Year Rally)? Have you had any table meetings yet (Church? Community? Cultures?)? If so, how's it going?
2. Share a story of when you have been "stuck." Maybe you were trapped in an elevator, cramped in a tight cave, or in a tight squeeze of some kind.
3. What area in your life do you feel the most "stuck" in today? In your job? Your mental health? Your finances? An addiction? A relationship? Your spiritual life? Other?
4. Read John 11:1-3, 17-21. Set the scene. What has happened up to this point in the story? Why is Martha so sad and angry? How would you have felt?
5. Read John 11:22-27. What did Jesus call himself? Why is this important to know this when facing death? What did Martha believe? Can you say the same thing and how would this belief affect your life? What hope does it give you? Have you ever been to a funeral where there was no sense of eternal life? How did it make you feel?
6. Read John 11:32-37. What was Martha's (verse 21), Mary's, and the other people's response when they saw Jesus? Do you believe God's timing is always right? Give an example. What does Jesus' emotion tell you about the nature of God's relationship with us and how does this impact your trust in God?
7. Read John 11:38-40. How does what Martha says here compare to verses 25-27 when she answered Jesus' question? If you had been there, what would you have thought about this whole scene?
8. Read John 11:41-45. Why did Jesus pray out loud? What happened to Lazarus? What was the purpose of the resurrection of Lazarus? What was the result?
9. This miracle was a foreshadowing of Jesus' own resurrection and power over death. Read Romans 6:4, Ephesians 1:18-19, and Philippians 3:10-11. How are we like Lazarus? What kind of resurrection life can we experience in the here and now? In what practical ways does Jesus' resurrection shape your life today?
10. Read Galatians 6:1 and James 5:16. What is the role of other Christians in helping shed our grave clothes and getting "unstuck"? Discuss: I need more than Jesus to fully live the resurrected life – I need other believers, too. Agree or disagree? Explain.
11. If you compared your spiritual life to the story of Lazarus, where would you be and why? Feeling ill? Still in the grave? Just being restored to life? Alive but still wrapped in grave clothes? Alive and free of grave clothes?
12. How can this group pray for you and our church this week? Pray for people to invite to your Church Table, Community Table, and Cultural Table.