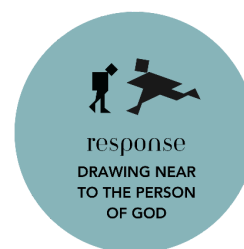
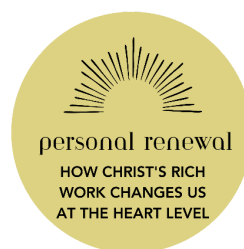


Members' Handout - Jesus and the Hurting (John 11:1-44)

Series: Encounters with Jesus



These CG Resources are meant to help our CGs facilitate a study of the Bible passage with a focus on applying God's truth to our lives together. Refer to the Summary, Fallen Condition and Good News sections at the beginning of the guide to keep the discussion focused. For a deeper dive into the passage, refer to the text notes on the passage.



Interpretation

1. Compare and contrast Jesus' responses to Mary and Martha: how were the both of them grieving similarly or differently and how did Jesus respond to each of them?
2. What does Jesus' emotion in v33-38 show us about how He responds to the effects of death and those who are hurt by it?
3. Why did Jesus delay going to Bethany when Mary and Martha called for Him? How did it demonstrate His love for them?

"Imagine that you were making up a story about a divine figure who had come to earth in disguise as a human being. In the story, this divine being arrives at the funeral of a friend, knowing that he has the power to raise his dead friend to life and that he is about to wipe away all the mourners' tears in the space of a few minutes. What would be this person's most likely inner emotional state? Surely you would depict him as smiling, excited, even playful. You'd expect him to be rubbing his hands with anticipation, saying under his breath, "Wait until you all see what I'm about to do!" Or perhaps you as the story writer would just keep him speaking in an elevated tone: "I am the resurrection and the life." Both of those reactions would seem to be in character for someone who claims to be divine. But we would never imagine that such a divine person would get sucked into Mary's agony and just stand there weeping. Why would he be so strong one minute and so vulnerable the next?"

Fallen Condition Focus

4. In a time of grief or hurt, what or who do we usually turn to? What misconceptions might we have about God that prevents us from running to him in our pain?

Personal Renewal

5. How do we know that Jesus truly cares about the brokenness in the world and our lives?
6. Consider how Mary and Martha engage with Jesus and vice versa. How does this encourage us to engage with Jesus with our hurt and grief?

Response

7. Share about an experience where Jesus revealed His love and care for you when you were hurting or grieving.
8. Think about an unbelieving friend/family member who is hurting. How might you use this passage to share the gospel with them?