



LIFEGROUPS STUDY GUIDE

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42

SERIES NAME:

Who Needs God?

MESSAGE NAME:

Injustice for All

MESSAGE DATE:

October 1, 2017

KEY PASSAGE(S):

John 11:1-44

Read John 11:1-44 together. This is the story of Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead.

In verses 1-5, we see that Jesus has an existing relationship with this family (elsewhere in Scripture).

Q: According to verse 3, how close is Jesus to this family? And in verse 5?

This is better than a first name basis! "The one you love," is like saying, "It's me!" on the phone.

Q: How do you respond when someone you love is sick and needs you? How did Jesus respond in verse 6?

Q: When Jesus explains to his disciples what's happened to Lazarus, he says something strange in verse 15. What does this mean?

In verse 17, we learn that Lazarus had been dead for four days. This is significant, because culturally this number of days was significant. Less than four, people could assume that Lazarus was in a coma, but four or more and there was no question about his being dead. Jesus allowed enough time to pass (and allowed this family he loved to suffer and mourn) to ensure there would be no question regarding what was about to happen next.

Q: In verses 21 and 32, what do Martha and Mary say to Jesus? How do we react in the face of pain and suffering?

Q: What do we learn about Jesus in John 11:35?

What's amazing here is that Jesus already knew what He was going to do, yet, he still entered into their pain and suffering and mourned with them.

Q: What happens at the end of the story?

Matt shared four (not exhaustive) reasons what God allows (and even ordains) pain and suffering in the world.

Discuss these four, as they relate to this story in John 11 and in your own life.

- To fulfill a greater purpose.
- To draw us back to Him.
- To increase our awareness of His goodness.
- To discipline those He loves.

Verse 4 ends with, "...so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Keep this in mind as you remember the world we broke and the purposes of God in saving us out of it.

If time allows, read Romans 8:18 through the end of the chapter.