

John Series XI

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

March 20, 2015

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Prepare a couple simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to put aside their busy and tiresome life to prepare their hearts to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God's face, and lead them into God's presence. During this time, the cell group leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. **MISSION ORGANIZATION:** _____, and their needs are: _____

(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:

- 3/28 Men's Breakfast
- 3/29-6/7 Love & Logic Parenting Class
- 4/3 Good Friday Service
- 4/5 Easter Sunday Celebration
- 5/15-17 Spring Retreat

C. New comer: _____ Confirm new comers' name before the meeting.

For sick members, friends or relatives: _____ Please discuss how you may show your care for them.

III. WORD, 45 mins.

By sharing God's word, the group may discuss how to apply it to their daily life.

A. **Sharing message from last Sunday's sermon:** (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again)

1. What is the key message from last Sunday sermon? How did God speak to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Topic of the week: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

Verses: John 11: 3-5, 21-27, 40-46

Memorizing Verses: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." (John 11: 25-26)

Jesus loved Martha, her sister Mary, and Lazarus. But when Lazarus was sick, they sent word to Jesus but he didn't come to them immediately, but rather stayed two more days. When they arrived, Lazarus was dead for four days. People misinterpreted Jesus' delay for his fear of the opposition from the Jew (v8). And when Jesus left for Bethany, the disciples thought he will be killed. Martha complained first and Mary cried with blame too upon Jesus' arrival at Bethany (v32). Jesus wept about people's reaction at the tomb, but this action irritated the Jew and they responded sarcastically (v37). Jesus Christ bore all misunderstanding because what He did was to glorify God and let people know He is the Lord of resurrection and whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.

1. Jesus announced Lazarus' sickness was to glorify God (John 11: 4-6)

A. Lazarus' sickness will not end in death (11:4a):

When Martha and Mary, Jesus' loved one, sent word to Jesus to heal Lazarus, Jesus said "the sickness will not end in death". Jesus said this doesn't mean Lazarus will not die, but means the story will not end in death. He will experience death but resurrect from death.

B. Jesus stayed where he was two more days (11:4b-6):

Jesus announced Lazarus' sickness was to glorify God. Indeed, Jesus can heal Lazarus right away to manifest God's power, but compared to healing from sickness, resurrecting from death was even hard to imagine because it is impossible in human. This glorifies God's mighty

power even more. For this reason Jesus stayed two more days to ensure it happened.

2. Jesus is the resurrection and the life (11: 21-27).

A. Martha cannot understand resurrection (11:21-24):

Martha has confidence in Jesus' healing but Lazarus was dead for four days. There is no way for him to come to life (v21-22). Martha also believed in resurrection in the end day (v24), but not resurrection now because Lazarus was fully dead.

B. Jesus is the God who resurrects people "now" (11: 25a):

Jesus said "I'm the resurrection and the life", so the problem is not about the past nor future, it's whether you want to believe and let God work.

C. Believe in Jesus will never die (11:26-27)

Believe in Jesus will have eternal life. Even though our body will age and we all die one day, but those believe in Him will experience the mighty power to resurrect from death. (1 Corinthian 15:52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.)

3. Those who believe will see the glory of God (11: 40-46)

A. What we can do is to follow God's command (40-41a):

Jesus told them to remove the stone (v39) and they did. This is an act of faith and is what we can do through our hands. But why would Jesus ask us to do? Can't he do it all and do it even better? This is because he wants us to participate in his miraculous work.

B. Lazarus was risen from the dead (41b-43):

Lord Jesus prayed to Father and called "Lazarus, come forth". Lazarus came out from the tomb, which fulfilled the prophecy that Jesus proclaimed in verse 4 "the sickness will not end in death".

C. People ensured Lazarus was resurrected from the dead

(44-46)

Lazarus came out from the tomb and was still wrapped in clothes. Jesus asked them to take off the clothes and let him go. The fact Lazarus was able to walk proved that he came to life. Those who saw what happened also witnessed the glory of God and many believe in God!

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):

1. Please share one thing that is most unbelievable in your life? How did you feel then?
2. When Jesus heard that his beloved Lazarus was sick, why didn't he go to heal him right away? If you were Lazarus' family, how would you feel when you saw Jesus' reaction?
3. What did you observe and learn from Lazarus' resurrection from the dead?
4. Have you feel disappointed with God? How did you overcome it?
5. Have you experienced God's mighty power in your difficulties or sickness? How are these things glorifying God's name?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you and praise you because you love us so much. When we were still living in the dark and surrounded by the breath of death, you sent your only beloved son Jesus to the world, indicating that He is the resurrection and the life so we can absolve from darkness and death to enter into your bright kingdom for eternal life. What an amazing love and grace! May God help us to experience His mighty power by faith so we can live out the renewed and glory life. Thank you for hearing our prayers. We pray in Jesus' precious name. Amen!

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.