



FIRST LIGHT CHURCH

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Date: 11/13/2022

Series: I Am-The Resurrection

Text: John 11:25-27

BIG IDEA: Jesus is The Resurrection and The Life.

ICEBREAKER: Would you rather have a fast forward, pause, or rewind button on your life?

CONTEXT: Jesus meets Martha at the village called Bethany, and she is mourning the death of her brother, Lazarus. She essentially blamed Jesus for Lazarus' death, and He assures her that her brother will rise again. Jesus makes Messianic claims about Himself and challenges Martha's faith.

PASSAGE: Have volunteers read John 11:1-44.

DISCUSSION:

1. Why do people rejoice in God's power for the future, yet seem to doubt His power today?
2. What ways is the resurrection more than victory over death?
3. In what ways was Martha's faith challenged by Jesus?
4. What exactly is Jesus stating by referring to Himself as the Resurrection when He answered Martha?
5. What does Jesus mean when He says that He is the life?
6. How do the verses, John 11:25-27, encourage Christians today?

APPLICATION:

7. In what ways are we looking to other things for life instead of Jesus? Why don't we turn to Jesus?
8. How does the future promise of eternal life change your perspective of your current situation?

K4 CONNECTION:

Our hope is in Jesus. He is the only way to have a truly abundant life, not only in this life, but for eternity. Jesus said in John 10:10 that is precisely why He came. Many in our world are without hope and live in despair. Reaching out to others with love and the message of the Gospel is how we share our hope with others. It is only through Christ that they can find restoration and joy.

CARE AND PRAY:

- Ask God to make you aware of "Gospel conversations."
- Pray for those around you who are in need of encouragement.
- Share any prayer requests.

COMMENTARY

[v.25-27] What does it mean for Jesus to be the resurrection and the life? The other “I am” statements Jesus makes in John can help us understand this one. When Jesus called Himself the “bread of life” (6:35), He presented Himself as the fulfillment of the manna from heaven in the wilderness. Anticipating the way He would transfer to Himself at the Last Supper the spiritual significance of the unleavened bread of Passover, Jesus asserted Himself to be what God’s people would subsist on after the new exodus as they journeyed to the new heaven and new earth.

Similarly, when Jesus called Himself the “light of the world” (8:12), He presented Himself as the fulfillment of the pillar of fire and cloud that would lead God’s people to the Land of Promise. And when He baldly declared, “I am” (8:24, 28, 58), Jesus identified Himself with the one who appeared to Moses at the burning bush to initiate the exodus from Egypt. In keeping with these fulfillments of OT pattern and prophecy, when Jesus called Himself the “good shepherd” (10:11), He presented Himself as the fulfillment of the prophesied new Moses, the new Davidic leader who would shepherd God’s flock.

The resurrection was also part of the prophesied picture of Israel’s restoration. Hosea 6:2 and Ezekiel 37 depict the return to the Land of Promise after the exile as resurrection from the dead. Jesus now asserts that He Himself is the fulfillment of the promised resurrection from the dead. He has life in Himself (John 1:4; 5:26), and as such He Himself is the resurrection.

Believing in Jesus is the means by which people are joined to His resurrection life. To believe in Jesus is to be plugged into the life that guarantees resurrection. To believe in Jesus is to be united to the one who has life in Himself, the one whom death cannot keep down. Those who believe in Jesus may experience physical death, but it will not be permanent, and those who believe will not undergo the second death (cf. Rev. 20:6). This is what Jesus means in John 11:26 when He says that those who believe in Him will never die.

From what takes place in the rest of this narrative, we see that Martha did not comprehend all of these glories. Jesus asks her if she believes (v. 26), and she affirms that He is “the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world” (v. 27). This affirmation means she believes Jesus to have been preexistent, to have been expected, to have descended from David, to be uniquely God’s Son. But from her reaction in verse 39, we see that she has not worked out all that Jesus meant in verses 25–26. Jesus has explained this in greater depth in 5:19–30, and He will illustrate His words in what He will go on to do.

WHERE’S THE GOSPEL

Jesus stated in John 14:6 that He is “The Way, The Truth and The Life.” No one comes to the Father, except through Him. We have the hope of eternal life because Jesus paid the price for our sins and conquered sin and death through His glorious resurrection. He demonstrated His awesome power and provided us the opportunity to live and reign forever with Him. There is no life without Him as He is the giver of life. He is the Resurrection because apart from Him, there is no new life. God wants us to be in communion with Him and wants to reconcile us to Himself because of His great love for us. Because Jesus conquered the grave and the power of sin, we are redeemed and are able to have a personal relationship with our Savior. We no longer have to fear death or the outcome of our lives because God has us securely in His hand if we are surrendered to Him and have put our faith and trust in His saving grace and loving mercy.