

Jesus Wept

John 11

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Vulnerable God

Reflect

Outline: Recap

Realize

Points to Ponder

Respond

Questions to draw out understanding.

REFLECT

It is astonishing to look at God as vulnerable. Isn't it? It is not an adjective that we normally associate with God. Yet the life and ministry of Jesus reveals God in vulnerability. There might not be a more powerful example of God's vulnerability than Jesus weeping in front of a crowd of people at the death of His friend, Lazarus. But it does teach us some powerful truths about how we should move through this world as we simply respond to Jesus.

REALIZE

1. Love is vulnerability in action

- **Scripture Reference;** John 11
- **Leader Notes**
 - True love is vulnerable to pain and hurt, but it keeps loving despite the pain.
 - Everything that happens in this story is because of Jesus' love for Mary, Martha, & Lazarus.
 - Jesus is inviting us to the way of vulnerability that He lived before us.
 - The way of love is the way of the cross because Jesus laid down His life for us on the cross.
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How are love and vulnerability important?

2. Jesus is the resurrection & the life

- **Scripture Reference;** John 15:12-13
- **Leader Notes**
 - Even though we've been hurt, we should still continue to love sacrificially.
 - Think about how much love from Jesus we have trampled in our lives, and He still loves us.
 - Jesus is inviting us into a very reckless way of living, that is the way of His reckless love.
 - The entire message of Christianity is what happens after the resurrection.
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - What does the resurrection mean to you?

3. Let what breaks Jesus' heart break ours

- **Scripture Reference;** John 14:6
- **Leader Notes**
 - Jesus is the life we are called to live, where we die to ourselves and live for Him.

- When we die to ourselves, we live to God and the great purpose He has for us.
- God's will is above our will, it is better than our will.
- Jesus leads us on the road to calvary, but at the end of the road is true life in the resurrection.
- Death without resurrection is what breaks Jesus' heart more than anything.
- **Questions for reflection**
 - How can you continue to die to yourself and live to God and His great purpose for your life?

4. Believe and see the glory of God

- **Scripture Reference;** Isaiah 53:3-4
- **Leader Notes**
 - The Bible teaches that if you first believe, then you will see the glory of God.
 - We should be able to see not just God's fingerprints, but His handiwork in both the good and the bad.
 - God is always working in both the good and the bad.
 - We ought to pray for God to open our eyes to see Him working, no one can open our eyes for us.
- **Questions for Reflection**
 - How does faith affect our ability to see the glory of God?

Optional Follow-up Questions:

- What makes you say that?
- How do you feel about that?
- How would you explain your answer to a non-Christian friend or neighbor?
- Why did God design it to work that way? Why not just do (whatever else) instead?
- What would you say to someone who disagrees with that?
- Why do we really have to do it like that? Why can't we just go (some other route) instead?