**POWER OVER DEATH**

**John 11:21-44**

**GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND AS SUCH HE IS NOT SUBJECT TO OUR PLANS**

* *“Then Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. 22 Yet even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”* (John 11:21)
* *“As soon as Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and told him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died!”* (John 11:32)
* **God has a divine plan that will accomplish His purposes and we only see in part, resulting in our need to trust Him in all things.**
* *“So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ 37 But some of them said, ‘Couldn’t he who opened the blind man’s eyes also have kept this man from dying?’”* (John 11:36-37)
* **The question we must ask ourselves is whether we will continue to trust and worship God even if He doesn’t handle our circumstance the way we want.**

**JESUS HAS ALL POWER OVER DEATH AND THE GRAVE**

* **Once we understand death is not and end for the Christian, we can trust God even if our loved ones who are in Christ leave this earthly life behind.**
* *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. 26 Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”* (John 11:25-26)
* **Jesus made it plain that those who trust Him as their Savior will live forever with Him in paradise, while those who reject Him will be eternally separated from Him in suffering.**
* *“So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised his eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you heard me. 42 I know that you always hear me, but because of the crowd standing here I said this, so that they may believe you sent me.’ 43 After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ 44 The dead man came out bound hand and foot with linen strips and with his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unwrap him and let him go.’” (John 11:41-44)*
* **The ultimate victory over death is not us being resurrected from the dead in this life, but when we leave this world in death and are resurrected in the presence of Christ Himself.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE BREAKER:** Who is the one person you are most looking forward to seeing in Heaven (apart from Jesus)?

**Start Thinking:**

* What does John 11:21-44 teach us about Jesus?
* Why did Jesus let Lazarus die and remain dead for four days?
* Why was Jesus indignant and compassionate at the same time?

**Dig Deeper:**

* How would you define God’s sovereignty?
* How does understanding God’s sovereignty help you when God doesn’t answer your prayers the way you want?
* What assurance from these verses do we find during our own times of suffering?
* What does it mean that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Why is this good news for His follower?

**Pray:**

* Share prayer requests and pray for each other.
* Pray for our community to be open to the Gospel.
* Pray for our church, and leadership.
* Pray for our government leaders, and local leaders.
* Pray about anything else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.