

I AM: The One Who Gives New Life
October 11, 2020

Read

Read John 11:1-44.

Discuss

- What are some things you are afraid of? Do you have a biggest fear?
- Read John 11:1-14. What do we learn about Jesus' view of life and death? How does this compare to your view of death? How does this affect the way you approach life?
- Jesus says, "I AM the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). What is the significance that the resurrection is a person and not an event?
- We often want a pain-free life, but Jesus is looking for a faith-filled life. Have you ever experienced something difficult only to later see purpose in it? What did you learn about God, and how did your faith grow? How can we continue to trust Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life even when it feels like he is "late" showing up?
- Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, but he still shared Mary and Martha's pain and wept with them. What does this tell us about Jesus's character? Share about a time that you experienced God's comfort. How does it feel to know that God weeps with us?
- Martha had faith in Jesus but still doubted that there was anything he could do once Lazarus was dead. In what areas of your life are you underestimating Jesus's power? How might Jesus be asking you to have an even greater faith in him? What are some practical ways you can learn to have "simple faith" and take Jesus at his word this week?

Dig Deeper

If your group has extra time or wants to dive deeper into the significance of the resurrection, read and discuss 1 Corinthians 15 together. Here are some questions to get you started:

- Based on Paul's (the writer of 1 Corinthians) response, how do you think the Corinthians viewed resurrection? What is Paul arguing against?
- What are the implications if Jesus was not really raised from the dead? What is Paul's reasoning behind these statements?
- What does it mean to have a spiritual body?
- The resurrection plays a crucial role in the battle between God's kingdom and the enemy. Who is the enemy in this passage? How does resurrection connect to the victory of the

kingdom of God? How does thinking about resurrection in terms of military conquest affect our understanding of life and death?

Pray

Sometimes we grieve physical death, but often we grieve other losses that feel a lot like death. Are you grieving anything today? How your group can support you? Pray for each other's losses and ask for comfort from God. Pray together that your group would know Jesus as the Resurrection and Life even in the midst of hurt.

Next Steps

1. Spend some time this week reading Psalm 34. What does this Psalm tell us about God's character? What verses are especially meaningful to you? Use those verses to pray and thank God for his protection and his presence. Consider memorizing some or all of the verses from Psalm 34 to encourage you in difficult times.
2. Subscribe to the Blackhawk Church podcast, and listen to this week's Next Steps episode to hear how others are applying the message to their own lives.