



Love God   Love One Another   Do Mission Together

### **Home Group study: week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

**THEME: THE BLESSINGS OF JESUS – BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED**

**PASSAGE: John 11v1-57**

#### **LAUNCH**

Share with the group a scene from a book, play, movie or piece of art even where grief is particularly well portrayed. What are the key elements?

If comfortable share a time when you experienced loss. How did you feel? Did your thinking change? What were some of the ways you coped or didn't?

#### **DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING**

Why does Jesus delay 2 days before returning back to Bethany? What is he aiming to achieve? (vs 4 - 7)

The disciples try to persuade Jesus not to return to near Jerusalem because they are afraid the Pharisees will try to stone him to death. (vs 8). Jesus follows this with a slightly mysterious statement about daytime & nighttime. What is he trying to tell them?

Have you ever had a time when doing the right thing has had negative consequences. In what ways is this becoming more of a challenge for Christians? (vs 9)

In vs 16 Thomas displays a wonderful picture of love and bravery combined with pessimism (not all together unfounded). In what ways are you in danger of being pessimistic in the Christian life? How should you counter this? (the answers need not all be spiritual)

#### **Conversation with Martha vs 21 - 27**

What do we learn about Martha from this section?

What key truths does Jesus try to share with her? Why is this important to Martha in this situation?

#### **Conversation with Mary vs 28 - 35**

What do we learn about Mary from this section?

In what ways does she differ from Martha? Which are you more like?

What things do you think Jesus was thinking as he wept?

What does this section tell us about God (Jesus is the exact image of the Father & vice versa). What pre conceived ideas about God are challenged by this account?

## APPLICATION

Pray for those who are mourning & have lost loved ones in the church (quite a few people)

Pray for those whom we mourn for because they are without Christ & a Compassionate heavenly father

Pray as we mourn humanity & its persistence in killing & destroying. Pray that God will stay the hand of key leaders who might be considering such actions.

Finally enjoy your group discussion & remember that God identifies with us in our sorrow

