



Week 5: April 4-10

Welcome/ Introduce Guests/ Share Life (10 minutes) Recall the Guidelines/ Open in Prayer

Vision Casting: As we enter Mission Month, let us continue to cultivate relationships so that we can reach the lost and connect the unconnected. (2 minutes)

Hook Question (5 minutes): When was a time you had to take a “leap of faith” to accomplish something?

Ask someone to read the background for the story (2 minutes):

The day Jesus died Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could bury Jesus’ body. Pilate granted his request. That night Joseph and Nicodemus laid Jesus in a new tomb with the customary spices and grave clothes. These men and Jesus’ other disciples felt hopeless.

A couple of days later Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to find it empty. All that remained were his burial clothes. Jesus had risen!

The last miracle Jesus performed before Passion Week would give a glimpse into His resurrection. His close friend, Lazarus, had died. Mary and Martha, Lazarus’ sisters, had sent for Jesus when Lazarus was ill, but He did not come. Four days after Lazarus was buried Jesus went to Judea to visit Mary and Martha to comfort them. When He arrived in Judea, Martha met him on the outskirts of town. She was sad and discouraged. However, Jesus told her that Lazarus would rise again. She believed that he would rise during the resurrection, but Jesus meant something different. Jesus told her that He was “the resurrection and the life.” He was claiming that He was God and that He had authority to raise the physically and spiritually dead. Whoever believed in Him would not die.

Jesus asked Martha if she believed. In the midst of her mourning she said, “Yes Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” This is where our story begins...

Tell the story from John 11:28 - 44: (12 Minutes per section): Change the storyteller often.

Rebuild the Story: Group members retell the story as well as possible.

Read the story from: Ask the group to read these verses.

Discussion Questions John 11:28-44: Learn to talk about God’s word with others. (Take as much time as needed.)

- What do you like or dislike about this story?
- What does this story teach you about yourself or people?
- What does this story teach you about God?
- What grave clothes are you still wearing that need to be removed?
- What is God speaking to you about? How do you need to apply this story to your life?

Ask for a volunteer storyteller for next week. Close in Prayer.