

September 12th & 13th Discussion Guide

When Love Comes to Town

The Death of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

1. Back when we were meeting in-person, which service did you attend and what was your favorite part?
2. Who do you consider to be your best friend and what do you like about that person?

Watch Worship Service

[Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Notes

Discussion (30 min)

1. Read Luke 10:38-42. Discuss from these verses and the sermon passage what is revealed about Jesus's relationship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. What would it be like to be a friend of Jesus?
2. Read John 11:3-18. How far away was Jesus from Lazarus? How many days did Jesus wait to go to Bethany? Why did Jesus let Lazarus die?
3. Jesus decides to head back into Judea where they want to stone Him. Many people think of Christian faith as primarily providing comfort when Jesus clearly asked and expected people to follow Him into danger zones? What would you have done?
4. Read Exodus 3:1-6, 11-15 and John 8:48-58. What does it mean that Jesus says, "I am"? Discuss your answers to His question, "Do you believe this?".
5. How is it that the son of God, the great I AM, would be moved to tears? Why did Jesus weep?
6. Jesus points us to the sovereign power and choice of God in the lives of His followers. This is different from the typical "God is in control" and "God has a plan" platitudes often given by Christians in the face of serious matters. What does it mean to say that God is sovereign?
7. **Application:** Where will you look to see God working even in difficult/hopeless situations this week?

Closing Prayer

1. Invite your group to share personal prayer requests. Lift these up in prayer.
2. LORD, we thank You that You are our friend and also sovereign in our lives! We ask You to show us when to wait and when to go, even into tough things, to bring You the most glory. Help us to know Your love more so that we can trust You more.

Additional Resources

Pastor Glen quoted from "Disappointment with God" by Philip Yancey