

EVERY NATION ROSEBANK

CONNECT OUTLINE

topic

JESUS REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF JOHN

8 WEEKS

DISCUSS

OVERVIEW

The Gospel of John is different to the other synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). John seemed to assume that his readers had read or were familiar with the events of Jesus' life, resulting in John leaving out certain events covered in the other gospels, and rather John focuses on the words Jesus spoke while on earth. John invites readers from every background, culture, and generation to reflect deeply on who Jesus is through what Jesus said and revealed about Himself. Interestingly, there are seven "I am" statements made by Jesus in the Gospel of John that are clearly written to demonstrate Christ's deity. There are also seven miracles by Jesus recorded in the book of John, unlike the multitude of miracles recorded in the synoptic gospels.

Why did John choose these seven miracles? What is the significance of the seven "I am" statements of Jesus? In biblical storytelling, what does the number seven represent? This series will look at **each miracle** and correspond that to one of the "I am" statements Jesus made to discover who Jesus is as revealed by the apostle John.

This material is designed for connect groups to work through together over a period of eight weekly discussions and Bible study. The format is designed to foster discussion and reflection rather than academic study, as suitable in a small group setting.

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EVERY NATION ROSEBANK

WEEK 1

topic

JESUS IS THE MESSIAH

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FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the four gospels in the New Testament have you read? Which of them is your favourite and why?
2. In your culture or upbringing, how was Jesus usually spoken about (teacher, prophet, healer, Son of God, etc.)?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

The Gospel of John was written by one of Jesus' closest disciples, John, son of Zebedee. John wrote about Jesus' life in a very different manner to the other gospel-writers. It seems clear from the beginning that John was writing about Jesus to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah sent by God, and in fact, is God in the flesh. Jesus is not only sent by God - Jesus is God revealed in human form.

Something extra...

Look for an article or video that discusses the phrase "The Son of Man." What is the significance of this phrase in the Old Testament and why did Jesus use it for himself?

DISCUSS

The Word

Read: John 1 together.

Discuss:

- Which statements in John 1 present Jesus as God?
- Which attributes (qualities) of God are shown to exist in Jesus through the statements and events in this chapter?
 - For example, Jesus is said to have all things created through Him, which is an attribute of God.
 - Other attributes to consider: all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful, holy, etc.
- Are there other statements that stand out to you from this chapter that speak about the majesty and mystery of the Gospel?

If you think about it, it is a pretty crazy idea for a person to claim He is God, and for others to affirm that. Very few of us would believe a person that claimed they are God. This is probably why John is writing about it so strongly. In fact, John records an interaction Jesus had with one of the teachers of the Jewish law, Nicodemus, who also did not really believe that Jesus was God.

DISCUSS

Unless he is born again...

Read: John 3.

Discuss:

- Why does Jesus' discussion about being born again show that He is God?
- What do you think it means to be born again and how does Jesus say it happens?
- What is Jesus saying about himself and his work in John 3:16-18? What does John 3:16–18 reveal about God's heart for the whole world, not one ethnic or religious group?
- How does John the Baptist show Jesus to be God in this chapter?
- What does John the Baptist teach us about being followers of Christ?

Throughout the book of John, and discussed in each week of this series, Jesus makes "I am" statements to explain to those around Him who He is. These statements would have been very important and offensive to the original audience because they mimic the name of God that was given to Moses.

DISCUSS

The I AM

Read: Exodus 3:13-15

Discuss:

Take a look at the table on the next page.

- Why was God's self-given name important in the Old Testament context?
- Compare the times God was given a name by mankind as opposed to when He identifies himself in Exodus 3. What is the difference between Exodus 3 and these (contextual) names?
- Do you think it was intentional that Jesus used "I am" statements? Why or why not? Why would Jesus' use of "I am" have been shocking and meaningful to his listeners?

Over the next seven weeks, we will examine the seven miracles of Jesus and the seven I am statements He made in the Gospel of John to discover who Jesus claimed He is.

DISCUSS

The I AM

<u>Jehovah Jireh</u>	Genesis 22:14	The LORD will provide
<u>Jehovah Rapha</u>	Exodus 15:26	The LORD who heals
<u>Jehovah Nissi</u>	Exodus 17:15	The LORD my banner
<u>Jehovah Shalom</u>	Judges 6:24	The LORD is peace
<u>Jehovah Tsidkenu</u>	Jeremiah 23:6	The LORD our righteousness
<u>Jehovah Shammah</u>	Ezekiel 48:35	The LORD is there

A few of the names of God with Biblical references

DISCUSS

FISH

Think about the implication of discovering that someone you have met is God in the flesh, the same god your family has worshipped for generations. What would that mean for your life?

Pray for those you know who do not or who struggle to believe that Jesus is God. Think about the revelation of God coming in the flesh as Jesus described in John 3, and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the opportunity, wisdom and sensitivity to share this with one of the unbelievers across cultural and relational boundaries you know.

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WEEK 2

topic

WATER INTO WINE

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FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

1. Have you seen any miracles in your life? Describe them to your connect.
2. What would you say that miracle revealed about God?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 2:1-11 together.

The first miracle John records is a creation miracle – Jesus making something exist that did not before. It was Jesus' mother that knew he could perform such a miracle (which makes you wonder what she had seen!). Jesus' first recorded sign takes place at a wedding – a universal symbol of joy, community, and new beginnings across cultures. There are interesting details in this story that need to be considered, such as the context of this miracle, the jars of purification being used, the symbolism of wine and why John chose to record this miracle when others did not.

Something extra...

Look at a Concordance to see the cross-references to other scriptures that talk about wine and about weddings in the New Testament. How does this enrich your understanding of this miracle?

DISCUSS

Wine at a wedding

Discuss:

- This miracle happened in the context of family and at a wedding celebration. What, if anything, does this teach us about Jesus and by inference about God by performing this miracle at a wedding?
- What were the Jewish jars of purification? Why do you think Jesus used these?
- Consider if the symbolism of wine is important in this story. Jesus uses a parable about wineskins to talk about the new covenant He is bringing (Matt 9:15-17). Jesus uses wine at the last supper to symbolise his blood shed for mankind (Luke 22:14-20). What might this miracle demonstrate considering this symbolism?
- This miracle took place at a wedding. Why would it be significant that Jesus' first miracle was at a wedding? What other parables of Jesus about weddings could illuminate this, or perhaps the final wedding banquet in Revelation 22?

DISCUSS

The Light of the World

Read: John 8.

In John 8, Jesus declares, “I am the light of the world!” In the context of forgiveness of sin, Jesus calls this woman to walk in the light and declares that He is that light. Consider what it means for Jesus to be the light of the world. He goes on to explain it that whoever He sets free will be free indeed.

In this chapter, Jesus argues with the Pharisees to prove that He is from God and of God. In fact, he makes another form of an I am statement. “Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am” (John 8:58). This was so offensive to the hearers that they tried to kill him! Jesus directly claims to be the Son of God here and sent to be the substitution for us, dying for our sins.

DISCUSS

The Light of the World

Discuss:

- Consider what was revealed about Jesus through the miracle of the water turned into wine. What link is there between that revelation and Jesus' statements in John 8?
- What does it mean for Jesus to call himself "the light of the world" in societies shaped by darkness, injustice, or fear?
- What is a modern version of the philosophy of the Pharisees as shown in this passage, their assumption of their righteousness? Have you ever fallen trap to one of these modern philosophies? What does Jesus teach you in this passage in contrast to these?
- Have you experienced Jesus in the way he describes himself in John 8? Have you experienced the freedom of the Son? How does Jesus' light expose and heal rather than shame?
- What about Jesus' statements here tell you how to experience Jesus' freedom and light?

DISCUSS

FISH

Jesus is the light of the world and without him, we are left in darkness. Consider that Jesus performed this miracle at a wedding when someone was in need. Think about your calendar and where someone might need your help, whether in workplaces, schools, homes, community events. Where might someone be quietly struggling? How can you minister to that person about the gospel? Pray for God to open your eyes to show you the moments when someone is in need and you can pray for a miracle for them.

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WEEK 3

topic

HEALING OF THE OFFICIAL'S SON

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FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Faith is an interesting concept in the Christian life, because we need faith to know God. How does one get or build their faith? How has your faith grown and what contributed to that growth? How has your faith been shaped by crisis, community, tradition, or personal encounter?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 4:43-54.

The healing of the Official's son highlights the authority of Christ because it emphasizes that the healing happened when Jesus' spoke. In fact, the Galileans were already receptive to Jesus as the Messiah based on his interaction with the Samaritan woman at the well (read the whole of John 4 to understand the context better and consider what is being revealed about Jesus).

Something extra...

Research the context of Galilee. What does the name mean? What was the area like?

Does this illuminate anything symbolic or otherwise about this miracle and why John emphasized its location?

DISCUSS

Healing

Discuss:

- Why do you think Jesus started by saying to the official that, “unless you see signs and wonders you will not believe”?
- What do you think is people attitude in general to miracles in modern society? Would Jesus’ say the same to them?
- What does this story teach us about faith? How is that evident in the actions of the official?
- Why do you think John emphasizes this miracle following the water turned into wine at the wedding? He notes that this is the same location. He calls this the second miracle even though we know from the other gospels that there were likely more miracles that took place between these. What is the significance of this?

DISCUSS

The Gate for the Sheep

Read: John 9:39 – 10:10.

Jesus contrasts himself with the teachers of the law at that time. He calls himself the gate for the sheep. The gate would have been the entry point into the pen. A place of safety and provision. Entrance into the pasture. Jesus also references A gatekeeper. This suggests that there is credibility that He holds for the sheep in contrast to the teachers of the law that he was talking to. These He calls people that are guilty because they see and yet do not change.

DISCUSS

The Gate for the Sheep

Discuss:

- Why do you think Jesus uses the image of sheep? In the description, he notes that there is a relationship such that the sheep know his voice. What does this indicate to you about who Jesus is and how we relate to him? Consider, for example, what sheep are without a gate to a pen.
- What is Jesus the gate to ultimately? How does the analogy of the sheep illustrate this?
- In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable contrasting the sheep and the goats. He frequently uses the imagery of sheep to describe those who belong in His Kingdom. What is the difference in nature between sheep and goats? In your interaction with God and how you respond to His instruction, are you more like a sheep or a goat?
- The gate for the sheep is different to a city gate, but there is an interesting reflection on the significance of gates and Jesus calling himself the gate for the sheep. Consider this list (https://biblehub.com/topical/t/the_significance_of_the_gates.htm) and what this reveals about Jesus.
- What does safety, belonging, and provision look like in your context?

DISCUSS

The Gate for the Sheep

Entrance into the gate of life is through faith and belief, just as Jesus revealed through the healing of the official's son. Signs and wonders can reveal Jesus' deity and presence, but they can also be a proud pursuit that challenges God rather than submitting to him as sheep. Consider the official's faith and the invitation that gives us to enter in to the gate for the sheep.

DISCUSS

FISH

Healing is a powerful way to demonstrate the coming of the Kingdom of heaven. Is there somebody that you know that does not know God but needs healing? Pray for them as a group. Commit to reaching out to them and offering to pray for them in person. Trust the Lord for the coming of his Kingdom and for open doors! Who in your life is searching for safety, meaning, or belonging? Pray for opportunities to gently point them toward Jesus without pressure or fear. The harvest is ready.

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WEEK 4

topic

THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

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FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the greatest changes you have experienced in your life because of your relationship with Jesus? How has Jesus revived your soul?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 5

The third miracle recorded by the Apostle John has several interesting components. Jesus took note of one particular invalid amongst a multitude. We know from the other gospels that Jesus often spent time ministering to many in a crowd and large crowds moved him. But the miracle John chooses to record is healing this particular paralysed man. Jesus asked him if he wanted to be healed, which is curious given that the man was by the famed pool of Bethesda. All of this took place on the Sabbath, which Jesus used to demonstrate his deity. As the God who gave the law, he understands best how to apply it.

Something extra...

Look into the context for the pool of Siloam. It is a site you can still visit in Jerusalem today!

DISCUSS

The Paralytic at Siloam

Discuss:

- Why does Jesus ask, “Do you want to be healed?”
- Contrast the response of the paralysed man to the question, “Do you want to be healed” with how Jesus commands his healing. Is there any significance in the words Jesus sends the man with that enable his healing?
- Write out a list of all of the affirmations Jesus makes about himself to the Pharisees in the rest of John 5 that demonstrate his deity. Once complete, consider how the healing of the paralysed man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath demonstrates these statements Jesus makes about himself.
- What stands out to you the most from this miracle? Why do you think the apostle John chose to include this (the only Gospel writer that did)?

DISCUSS

The True Vine

Read: John 15:1-11.

Jesus' last "I am" statement recorded by John is that he is the True Vine. This statement is made in the context of Jesus' final sermon to the disciples at the last supper on the night he was betrayed. Jesus reveals for the final time that He is the source of all life, and connection to him is crucial to remain connected to the Father.

DISCUSS

The True Vine

Discuss:

- What do you think it means to abide in Jesus as the vine? How does one do that?
- Jesus describes his abiding in the Father's commandments and the Father's love. Based on Jesus, what does that teach you about how to abide?
- What is the difference between the vine and the branches? What roles do each play and what is the purpose of each? Are you fulfilling your role as the branch and keeping your vine as Jesus? Have you got other vines that you have grafted in to you as the branch?
- Is there any link between how Jesus healed the paralytic at Bethesda and his invitation (or command) to us to abide in him as the True Vine?
- What does "abiding" look like in busy, pressured modern life?
- What competes with Jesus for our source of identity or nourishment?

DISCUSS

FISH

For many believers, the invitation to abide feels like a promise of refreshing – water for a parched soul. Consider the people you know that are unbelievers. What are their thirsts? How can Jesus be the answer to their needs? Pray for them to encounter the True Vine and look for opportunities to discuss with them how Jesus is the source of life and joy to the full.

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WEEK 5

topic

FEEDING THE MULTITUDES

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FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Has there been a time in your life that you had to choose to be different to people around you so that you can follow Christ? Have you ever faced rejection from others because of any of those choices?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 6:1-15.

Jesus feeding the five thousand is the only miracle that is recorded in all four Gospels. It is the fifth miracle that John writes about, and the first of John's recorded miracles that is to a multitude of people. This becomes important later on as we see the difference between one person experiencing the truth of Christ as their Messiah (as in John 4) versus a crowd experiencing God's power without understanding who Christ is (revealed later in chapter 6).

Something extra...

Read this miracle across the four Gospels to compare how the disciples recorded it and what they emphasized.

- Matthew 14:13–21
- Mark 6:30–44
- Luke 9:10–17
- John 6:1–15

DISCUSS

Be fed

Discuss:

- In this story, John notes that the Passover was taking place (interestingly something that is unique to John's gospel). Do you think there is any significance or connection between the Passover and the ministry of Jesus to the crowds? What does the Passover communicate that Jesus is also communicating?
- Discuss the roles of the different people in enabling this miracle, and what attitude each might have had: Philip, Andrew, the boy in the crowd, the other disciples and Jesus. Whose faith contributed to the miracle? Do you think the roles of each of these people enabled, or if absent, could have hindered this miracle from happening? What does this teach us about partnering with the Holy Spirit to perform miracles?
- Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to gather up the leftovers that nothing might be lost?
- Discuss verse 15. What does this teach us about discipleship and evangelism? Consider scenarios such as a large crowd coming to hear a famous teacher or prophet.

DISCUSS

The Bread of Life

Read: John 6:22-71.

The same crowd that Jesus performed this miracle for followed him across the sea. The crowd, however, did not believe in Jesus as the Messiah even though he had just performed such a mighty miracle for them. It is in this context that Jesus declares himself the Bread of Life. This is Jesus' first allusion to the Communion meal that we partake of in remembrance of Him. The crowd was greatly offended and disgusted by Jesus' claims, and they turned their backs on Him. But not the disciples. They had encountered the reality of the Messiah and chose to stay with Jesus despite the rejection of the world.

DISCUSS

The Bread of Life

Discuss:

- Have you ever sought God for “the food that perishes” rather than “the food that endures to eternal life” (verse 27)? How did you correct that? How is this difference to what Jesus calls the work of God, which is to believe in the One He sent?
- What does Jesus mean by calling himself the Bread of Life? What does it mean to you?
- Does this link to Jesus saying that he will raise up those who believe in The Son on the last day? Contrast what the multitude was searching for when Jesus miraculously provided food for them versus what He offers them in calling himself the bread of Life.
- What is your concept of eternal life? Jesus said that the Israelites ate manna and died, as have many Christians. What is the difference between the Israelites and those who believe in the One God Sent?
- Have there been teachings of Jesus that you found very difficult, even offensive? Are there things that you are struggling to agree with? Share them with the group and see if there is any counsel on how to follow Christ even when teachings can be difficult and offensive.

DISCUSS

FISH

The Bread of Life is for us to feed on continuously. Discuss how you can keep feeding yourself on Christ. Consider how these practices can enable you to minister to others as Christ ministered to this crowd so that they might know Him.

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WEEK 6

topic

WALKING ON WATER

INSERT TOPIC HERE

FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Do you think that God wants to do miracles through you? If no, why not? If yes, what are you doing to steward this gift from God and enable it?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 6:16 – 21

Last week, we read the rest of chapter 6 in which Jesus feeds a crowd of thousands. In the middle of this story, Jesus clearly instructed his disciples to leave the crowd and row across the sea to Capernaum, without Jesus, who was still on the mountain by himself. Jesus then appears to them walking on the sea despite it being rough! The disciples were frightened when they thought it was a spirit, but relieved to learn it was Jesus, who then miraculously got them through the storm to the other side.

DISCUSS

Walking on rough seas

Discuss:

- Why do you think Jesus withdrew to the mountain and told his disciples to leave at night across the sea?
- In contrast to the rest of chapter 6, this miracle is private. This is just for the disciples. What does this miracle communicate about who Jesus is? What is the significance of the setting (and the storm) in this revelation of Christ?
- If Jesus could have gotten the disciples immediately across the sea from the beginning, why did he not do that?
- What does this teach us about our interaction with God as we live each day on earth?

DISCUSS

The Way, The Truth and the Life

Read: John 14:1-14 (for context, read John 13:26-28).

During the final meal Jesus shares with his disciples on the night he was betrayed, Jesus makes this statement that he is “the way, the truth and the life.” More directly, he states that anyone who has seen Jesus has seen the Father, that the Father is in Jesus and Jesus in the Father. This is an incredibly important and bold statement.

Something extra...

Read Jesus’ last supper across the four Gospels to compare what each writer emphasized.

- Matthew 26:1-35
- Mark 14:3-31
- Luke 22:3-38
- John 13:1 – 17:26

DISCUSS

The Way, The Truth and the Life

Discuss:

- What does it mean for Jesus to be the Way, the Truth and the Life?
- What are the similarities between what Jesus is saying to the disciples here and the revelation of Christ through him walking on the water?
- What are the implications of Jesus saying that anyone who has seen him has seen the Father?
- Consider the phrase, “Jesus is perfect theology.” What does this mean and how does it link to what Jesus is saying in John 14?
- Discuss the promise of Jesus in verses 12-14. Jesus has already stated that the works that He does are through the Father dwelling in Him (verse 10). In light of this, how can we also do the works that Jesus does?
- Is it fair to say that we should replace the work that Christ was doing now that he has gone to the Father? If yes, what does that look like in your life?

DISCUSS

FISH

Christ has sent us into the world that we would reveal the Father the same way that He does. Are you doing this currently? How can you do this better? What is one thing you can do this week to pursue demonstrating the Father in the way Jesus did?

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WEEK 7

topic

HEALING A MAN BORN BLIND

INSERT TOPIC HERE

FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

Share with the group if you have had experiences where you felt like God was taking care of you. What was it like and how did it impact you?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 9.

After Jesus has a confrontation with the Pharisees where he makes the bold statement, “Before Abraham was, I am” (see John 8:58), he heals a man who was born blind. This incredible miracle sparks great debate among the Pharisees. Jesus healed him on the Sabbath, which to the Jews is a clear break of the law of God. Yet such a miracle testifies to the presence of God among them. They are divided – how can someone break God’s law to perform a godly act? The Pharisees seem determined to disprove Jesus’ miracle by calling the parents of the former blind man to verify that he was born blind. In his testimony, he makes the beautiful claim that those saved by grace can all relate to, “One thing I do know, that thought I was blind, now I see.”

Something extra...

To research this more, look into examples of scripture where there was a miracle or supernatural event but it did not demonstrate the presence of God. For example, there is witchcraft in the Bible that has supernatural effects but not Godly demonstration.

DISCUSS

Now I see

Discuss:

- Why do you think Jesus used mud to heal the blind eyes of this man? There are other miracles recorded where Jesus speaks the word and the person is healed. Why do you think he made mud and instructed the man to wash it off?
- Throughout the story, the question is being asked if a bad circumstance in someone's life, such as an illness or disability, is evidence of sin. What conclusion can you draw from this story? Does sin result in curses that we bear physically in our lives? What is the difference between the Pharisees (who accuse others of being born in sin) and the man that was healed, in relation to this question?
- Based on how Jesus interprets the Sabbath, what does that teach you about how we obey the law of the first covenant (Old Testament law)? What is the ultimate goal of the law? If you are unsure, reference Matthew 23:23-24.

DISCUSS

The Good Shepherd

Read: John 10:1-21

As Jesus continues talking to the crowd about the healing of the blind man, he elaborates on who He is. He states that He is “the Good shepherd”, one who lays down his life for the sheep. He is the entrance to the sheep’s pasture, but he is more than that. He gives everything He has to protect and care for the sheep.

DISCUSS

The Good Shepherd

Discuss:

- Consider the description of a good shepherd given here, and in general your thoughts about what a shepherd does. What does this tell you about who Jesus is? Do you relate to Jesus as a good shepherd? Why or why not, and how can you begin to trust him more to shepherd you?
- What is the difference between the way the Pharisees led the Israelites versus how Jesus is describing his leadership through this analogy?
- Consider our modern-day church leaders. By and large, do they mimic Jesus' style of leadership or the Pharisees style of leadership? How can we as believers navigate this and find a good shepherd?
- Why do you think it is important that Jesus claims that his life cannot be taken from him but it is given up freely by him? What is the theological significance of understanding this about Jesus?
- Link this analogy back to how Jesus interacted with the man born blind. Consider also how David described God as his shepherd in Psalm 23. What does this show you about how God wants to interact with you today?

DISCUSS

FISH

Think about who are the people you know that are blind and they don't know it, who need the care of the good shepherd more than they realise. As a group, pray for those people. Pray for opportunities to minister to them and share the good news with them. Pray for boldness to go after miracles and share with them about the revelation you have had of Jesus. Give feedback next week about if any opportunities arose for you to minister to these people.

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EVERY NATION ROSEBANK

WEEK 8

topic

RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD

INSERT TOPIC HERE

FELLOWSHIP

OPENING QUESTIONS:

For many non-believers, the question arises that how can one trust in God when there is suffering and pain in the world. How have you answered that question for yourself (or to others if you have had the conversation)?

DISCUSS

FOLLOW

Read: John 11: 1-46

This interesting story is about people that Jesus loved deeply. It is one of the rare moments where we see Jesus' humanity – that he grieved and wept for the loss of his friend. Despite knowing the hope that he had in his hands, Jesus felt loss. He cared deeply for Lazarus, Mary and Martha. We also have a picture into how Martha interacts with Jesus in reconciling her loss and her hope in who He is. Ultimately, the miracle of a man being raised from death to life should have proven once and for all that Jesus is the Messiah and all should put their trust in Him! Yet not everyone responded to the miracle in this way.

Something extra...

Research scriptures that demonstrate God's emotions and what emotions God portrays to His people.

DISCUSS

See the Glory of God

Discuss:

- Why do you think Jesus waited before going to visit Martha and Mary and Lazarus?
- How do you think Martha and Mary felt after they had sent for Jesus saying their brother is sick, and he did not come for a while?
- Consider the things Martha says to Jesus when she sees him, and when Jesus goes to the tomb. What does Martha, and the waiting period Jesus forced on her, teach us about how we interact with God when we experience loss and disappointment? How have you interacted with God in the past about your loss or grief? What can you learn from this story?
- This story repeatedly emphasizes how Jesus was moved by the loss of Lazarus and the emotion of Mary and Martha. What does this teach us about the character of God?
- How can we better trust God during times of loss, as reflected in this story?

DISCUSS

The Resurrection and the Life

Read: Re-read John 11:17-27 in three different Bible translations (one of these should be a paraphrase, such as the Amplified or Message Bible)

The second last “I am” statement that John records is that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life”. A powerful phrase given the context in which his close companions were experiencing grief and loss. Jesus emphasizes that those who believe in him will live even though they die. He demonstrates this power by raising Lazarus from the dead.

DISCUSS

The Resurrection and the Life

Discuss:

- Although Lazarus was raised from the dead, he did not live on earth forever. He died a second time, as did Mary and Martha. What does John 11: 25 – 26 mean?
- How does this promise give us hope when we are facing loss and grief?
- Outside of the context of losing loved ones, what does Jesus' statement, "I am the resurrection and the life" mean for every day? How can you believe in this statement and what impact will this have on you?
- What does resurrection life mean beyond physical death?

DISCUSS

FISH

Share with the group people you know that struggle to trust God because of loss and suffering. Pray for God to have mercy on them and draw them near to Him. Commit to sharing a prayer or encouragement with them this week and trusting the Holy Spirit to use that to minister to them.

DISCUSS

FINAL REFLECTION

John's Gospel invites people of every culture to encounter Jesus not as an abstract idea, but as living truth — light, life, nourishment, guidance, healing, and hope for the world. Discuss what has stood out the most for you during this Bible study of the book of John.

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