

Transition:

Due to sin, life is filled with evil, suffering, and death. But the good news is that Jesus loved us so much so that he didn't leave it that way. Chapters 9 and 10 and now 11 show us the power of Jesus over the heavens and the earth, over life and death. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. All things are for the glory of God.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) the best as you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Jesus mean when he says he “is the resurrection and the life”?
2. What does this chapter teach us about Jesus's power over life and death?
3. How does Jesus's emotional response to Mary and the mourners impact your view of His compassion and humanity?
4. Why did Jesus delay going to see Lazarus in Bethany?

Fundamental:

Jesus has power over life and death. What wonderful comfort that is. However, as seen in this chapter, what is most important is how God is gloried through both the suffering and the healing. Do not lose hope or faith if healing does not come in your expected timing or even in this lifetime. Verse 25 and 26 show us that all who believe in Jesus will be saved. Even so, while there is pain and suffering in this world, we can trust that Jesus is near to us and grieving with us. (Verse 33-35)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Check on your actions and thoughts during the week. Do they reflect that you believe in God's timing? That you have faith in his power over heaven and earth?
2. Practice empathy with others that are suffering and provide reassurance that Jesus is in control even now.
3. Ask the Lord to give you a glimpse into His heart. To love what He loves and Hate what he Hates.

Discipleship Tip:

Practice empathy with your small group members when they share about hard situations or their grief. Reassure them that Jesus cares about their struggles and that ultimately, God will heal us...Even if that healing only comes in death.

Prayer:

Lord, help us to put our faith in your design for our lives and your love for your people. Help us to remember your goodness and your authority over all things.