



Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

For the sake of time, you may want to choose one or two questions.

Warm up:

If you are willing, share with the group your most recent experience with grief. How did it affect you? How did it change you?

Read

Read John 11:1-35 as a group. What stands out to you about this passage? What do you notice as unusual?

Discuss

1. Why do you think Jesus does not respond to Martha and Mary's accusation "If you had been here, my brother would not have died"?
2. What does the immediate context of v. 35 tell us about why Jesus wept? What made him cry?
3. Read John 11:38-44. Why doesn't Jesus raise Lazarus immediately upon coming to the tomb? Why does he allow himself, and others, to grieve?
4. In this week's talk we said grief does four things:
 - realigns our priorities
 - helps us embrace mystery
 - points us to something beyond
 - challenges us to live in the moment

Which of the above ideas resonates the most with you?

5. What is the significance of worshipping a God who grieves? How does this idea expand your understanding and appreciation of God?

Wrap Up:

Close your time together in prayer.