

Dead Man Walking

Read through John 11:1-43 together.

Both Mary and Martha approached Jesus saying “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” Do you have experiences in your life when you have had the same question of ‘God where are you? Where were you?’

Sam shared that Jesus’ response to seeing Lazarus, ‘Jesus wept’, is a profound picture of God that might be new to some of us. How does the image of Jesus weeping at Lazarus’ tomb change your perception about who Jesus is? And what does this tell us about God’s character?

We learnt that ‘deeply moved’ or *embrimōmenos* actually translates more literally as ‘bellowed with rage’. What does it mean for God to be angry at the things that harm us? Is that an easy picture of Jesus to accept? Do we ever feel anger at the sin, brokenness and evil in our world?

Jamie shared the powerful story of his trauma and how Jesus moved through that time. What about his story stood out to you? How do stories like that of Lazarus and Jamie help grow our faith?

What about the other stories? Who of your friends would you love to help baptise in the future? What things could you do to bring this closer to reality?

Spend some time together reflecting on the passage which says: *The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”* What does it look like for us to take the grave clothes off? Do you have experiences of that in your own life?

What practical steps can we take to help each other find fullness of life, rather than walking around with grave clothes on? What might that look like? Do you have experiences of being mentored or meeting in a mentoring triplet like Sam shared?

It’s important that we are able to talk honestly about our experiences of feeling like God wasn’t there when we needed him. You might want to break down into smaller groups to pray about this. Alternatively, you may want to pray for each other and for our community about how we can help each other ‘take the grave clothes off’.