



LEADERS GUIDE – October 6

ICEBREAKER: What is something that you once enjoyed in life that is now obsolete? e.g. land line, blockbuster, floppy disks, etc.

PRIMARY PASSAGE

John 11:17-44: I AM The Resurrection And The Life

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “***I am the resurrection and the life.*** The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. ³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ 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 IS GOING ON?

1.) Read John 11:17-44. What is happening? What observations or questions do you have from this passage? Jesus is notified of his friend, Lazarus', fatal sickness. He delays his journey to go see him until he had been in the tomb for four days. When he arrives, both Martha and Mary tell Jesus that if he had been there, Lazarus would not have died. He comforts Mary by weeping with her, but with Martha he speaks to the theological truth that Lazarus will rise again because he is the resurrection and the life. Jesus then raises Lazarus from the dead.

WHAT DOES JESUS CLAIM?

2.) In verse 25, what does Jesus' claim mean? Jesus' claim was that he was the resurrection and the life. His statement showed that resurrection wasn't just what he did, but who he was. He was the living embodiment of hope and life. **What did Jesus' miracle prove?** That he had power over death.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US?

3.) How would Jesus' continue to show that he had authority over death? Soon Jesus would defeat death permanently. After being crucified, three days later, he rose from the grave and left an empty tomb behind. **In what ways did Jesus make death obsolete?** Death was never designed by God. It was a product of sin. When Jesus died on our behalf and rose from the dead, he defeated death for all who believe in him. We no longer fear separation from God. Death has lost its sting! Amen! *As a leader, make sure that the Gospel is clearly presented in your group for those who may not fully know it. The link at the bottom is a video that Kevin McKee made on how to share the Gospel in one verse. It clearly shows how Christ's death and resurrection makes death obsolete and reunites us with God!*

4.) Once Lazarus was raised from the dead, Jesus commanded him to take off his "grave clothes." Read Galatians 2:20, 2 Corinthians 5:17, and Colossians 3:1-17. How does this visual of taking off our grave clothes impact us today? Once we have experienced the resurrection and the life, we are a new creation. We are called to leave behind the things of our old life and put on the things of our new life.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Jesus' statement, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," shows that hope and life is found in him. His miracle and statement foreshadows his ultimate miracle as he would be raised from the dead and defeat sin and death for those that believe in him. This truth, not only provides eternal life for us, but compels us take off our "grave clothes" and walk in our new identity.

- Do you truly believe that Jesus' has defeated death and that if you were to die today, that you would experience life? Why or Why not?
- What would be an example (attitude, belief, action) of some "grave clothes" that you need to discard? The lists in Colossians 3 is a great start to help you identify.
- In that area, what would it look like to walk in your new identity?

Check out this 5-minute video to understand what Christ's death and resurrection means for you:

The Gospel Explained In One Verse by Kevin McKee -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=taYc0u30Mlk&feature=youtu.be>

