



## Sermon Discussion Guide

Add Sermon Title - Add Speaker Name  
Add Sermon Date

### Leader Preparation

1. Take some time to look over these questions ahead of time. Choose the ones that you want to make sure you cover with your group. We have highlighted what we think are **key questions by bolding them.**
2. Pray for your group and your time together as you prepare. This is so helpful!
3. When meeting online you as the leader will need to be more directive than in person. Don't be afraid to invite everyone to answer a question, invite them to share by name, and thank them when they finish. The online format requires a little more intentional orchestrating than an in-person group.
4. Try to start the gathering by getting everyone talking at least once to begin. The Hook section is great for this. When in doubt, have people share stories about their past. (How the week was, favorite memories about the topic for the day, etc). This is a great way to help your group continue to get to know one another.
5. Next, look at the Scripture and what it means. We believe Jesus is discipling people through this Word. Get people into the Scriptures and the Scriptures into people!
6. Finally, end with what God is saying to people and how God is inviting them to respond. These aren't just ideas to know but realities to live in!

### Tip of the week

Has your small group been meeting over Zoom? One powerful option for helping your group feel connected is by delivering physical notes, letters, gifts, or care packages amongst your group members. This could be done by the group leader, by a person in the group with the gifts of administration and generosity, or it could involve all the group members!



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### Hook - Getting to know one another

- How is everyone doing this week? This could also be an icebreaker question related to the topic for discussion.
- 1. Have you ever seen God heal someone? Tell the story!

### Book - John 11: 1-44

- Read the scripture, and discuss a few questions to understand **what the text is saying**.
- 2. Notice that The glory of God plays an important role in this story. For this situation let's say that glory means "God's beautiful heart being revealed". Find the two verses that mention the glory of God and take a volunteer or two for each verse to rephrase the verse in their own words using that definition. (vs 4 and 40)
- 3. Mary and Martha are experiencing a time of horrible suffering in this story. How does Jesus relate to them during that time? (Idea: Make a simple list/ let people comment in the chat!)

### Look - Connections to our world today

- This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.
- 4. What does Jesus reveal to us about the glorious heart of God through his words and actions in verses 40-44? How have you needed these aspects of God's character this year?
- 5. What if verse 35, Jesus weeping, is actually an important part of the process of Jesus revealing and the heart of God? How are his tears a display of God's heart? How have you needed these aspects of God's character this year?
- 6. In verses 21 and 32 we see Martha and Mary's statements to Jesus in the midst of their suffering. What do normal Bellinghamsters say or think towards God when they are facing moments of sickness, death or suffering? What would Jesus' answer be to them?



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### Took - Personal Application

- This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.

6. God sees us in our fear, sickness, and death and weeps with us. His very presence as the resurrection and the life is the actual solution to our problems. Where are you facing sickness, death or fear in your life? Take a moment to write out prayers of trust to Jesus - declaring that you do believe that he is your resurrection and your life.

### Time of Prayer