

FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS (August 6, 2017)

Dead Man Walking

(John 11:1-44)

Small Group Study Notes

Getting to know you: What is your favorite summer activity and why?

Open:

- Where did Jesus' first miracle take place? What was the occasion? (John 2)
- Where did the last miracle John records take place? What was the occasion? (John 11)
- Tell us what you know about the family of Lazarus?
- Do you identify more with Martha or Mary? How so?
- Have you ever faced a serious sickness and how did God help you through it?

1) Trouble Brewing – Read John 11:1-16

- How does John help us know which Mary this was?
- What was the purpose of Lazarus' crisis?
- How does Jesus respond to the news of Lazarus's sickness?
- Sometimes Thomas is called "the doubter" but what character quality does His response suggest here?
- Have you ever waited on God to act or wondered where God was when facing some crisis?
- When conversing with Martha about the resurrection what was her belief?
- Jesus identified Himself as the resurrection and the life. What is He saying?
- What position does Mary take when she reaches Jesus?

2) Tears Flowing – Read John 11:17-36

- Which of the sisters goes out to meet Jesus first?
- What did the sisters say to Jesus?
- Do you have any "if only's" that bug you?
- What do these O.T. scriptures tell us about the resurrection (Job 19:25-26, Daniel 12:2)?
- Are we in the "land of the living" or the "land of the dying?" Where is the land of the living?
- What does the hope of the resurrection do for your faith?
- Why do you think Jesus wept?
- Why did Jesus "groan in His spirit" what does this mean?

3) Tomb Openings – Read John 11:38-44

- What reason did Martha give for not opening the tomb?
- What did Jesus pray out loud and why?
- Do you think Lazarus was sad he was called back to earth?
- What do you most look forward to in Heaven?
- What did Jesus tell them to do after Lazarus came waddling out?

CLOSE:

- Had God ever used trouble/trials in your life to draw you closer to Him? Explain.
- When is the last time you wept with a friend and what was it over?
- What does knowing that Jesus has power over death do for you?
- Anything confusing about this passage? What questions do you have?
- How will knowing this truth help you live for God?