

14 DAYS: Week 1 – The Resurrection and the Life

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions/Cast Vision

Remind the Grow Group of the ground rules

Share context of the story *[Provide context by sharing the information below.]*

In John 10, we learn that Jesus is the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep. He is also the door through which believers find abundant and eternal life (v 10). John 11 tells of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. This miracle foretells Jesus' own resurrection and revealed Him as "the resurrection and the life." The raising of Lazarus was the final event that triggered the Jewish leaders to arrest Jesus and try Him for blasphemy.

Tell the story – John 11:1-44 *[Have someone tell the story.]*

Rebuild the story *[Group members tell the story together based on what they remember.]*

Read the story out loud *[Read the scripture passage to see if anything was added or omitted.]*

Discuss these questions:

1. What do we learn about God from this passage? *[Jesus modeled the importance of relationship while on earth; nothing is impossible with God; Jesus is the resurrection and the life; Jesus came that we might have an abundant life full of joy and peace (John 10:10); Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2); God's timing is often not our timing; God uses our steps of faith to encourage others; without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6); etc.]*
2. What do we learn about Man/Us from this passage? *[I can make bold statements of faith, and soon after, fail to respond with action; I can become disappointed when life doesn't seem to go how I'd like; I can get distracted by the busyness of this life and fail to see how the Lord is moving; I can treat Jesus like a personal genie that grants my every whim; my faith is strengthened when I see the Lord working in the lives of others; I need to continually trust in the Lord (Proverbs 3:5-6); etc.]*
3. What is God saying to you specifically through this passage as it pertains to your life, marriage, family, and work?
4. In light of what you've learned today, what do you need to do to obey God?

Other questions specific to this passage:

1. In John 9:3, Jesus said that the man was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him. Do you struggle with being an instrument for God's glory (verse 45)?
2. What has God designed to help us go through difficult experiences (verse 19)?

Assign next week's passage – Luke 19:28-40 *[Ask someone to tell the story next week.]*

Close in Prayer

14 DAYS: Week 1 – Leadership Coaching

The purpose of this page is to help you sharpen your skills as a Grow Group leader. Each week, we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your Grow Group and grow as a disciple yourself.

Leading *[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]*

Mentoring is a vital part of maintaining group health. Your coach should be challenging and encouraging you. We want to make sure that you have a place to go with tough questions and difficult situations. If you are not having regular conversations with your coach, we encourage you to consider the importance of this relationship and make every effort to make this relationship a healthy one.

Shepherding *[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]*

As you pray for your group members this week, spend some time asking God to help you identify where they are in spiritual development. If you know where they are, make plans to help them move to the next stage of spiritual maturity. Remember that spiritual maturity is often revealed in their beliefs, behaviors, attitudes and language. Here are a few questions to consider:

Are they self-centered or God and others-centered?

Do they attend church regularly? Do they serve in a ministry?

What is their attitude toward the group? Are they consuming or contributing?

How often and how accurately do they apply Scripture to their lives?

Developing *[grow as a disciple yourself]*

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17

Relationships are a vital component to how God designed us to mature in our faith. Take a moment to look at the story in Acts 10. Few people are presented as more spiritual than Cornelius throughout Scripture. He was kind, generous, and fervent in prayer. What he lacked was an understanding of the Gospel. Ironically, it took a supernatural intervention in the form of a vision to Peter, one of Jesus’ closest disciples. That led Peter to go to Cornelius and share the message of Jesus.

As you reflect upon Acts 10 consider the following:

In what areas of my life could God be sending someone to help me mature as a disciple?

How is God using me in the lives of others to help them mature in Christ?

What barriers have I made that hold me back from investing in the lives of others?