



Gospel over

Grief

BIG IDEA

Our broad acceptance of a secular (rather than a spiritual) frame for life is causing much of our despair and emptiness.

GROUP OPENER

There are three common lanes of coping with grief. They are stuffing it, cheating it or journeying through it. If you have had a time where you journeyed through grief and feel comfortable sharing some of what you learned with the group.

GROUP DISCUSSION

- Read John 11:17-27 Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

December 22
WEEKEND

ACTION STEPS

I will statement...

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will _____". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

As a Group

Grief often feels private because each loss is different, but the truth is grief is a communal experience. When shared with others the weight can be spread around. How do you see the community coming around the people walking through loss in what you read today?

Discussion:

Grief is not always centered on the loss of life, sometimes it can come at the loss of an expectation or a hope. Spend some time discussing how Jesus helps us to deal with grief.

Question: One truth that was shared in the sermon is that grief often causes us to wrestle with what we truly believe. Why do you think that is true?

In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah explained to the people at his time that God's original promise of being with his people would be fulfilled in someone who would be given the name Emanuel. Which means God is with us. Jesus is God with us.

Question: How does knowing that we are not alone in our grief give us hope?

On Your Own

During this time of year, old grief often resurfaces. Who is someone you can walk with who may be carrying grief in this season?