

God Let It Happen?

Opening Questions:

What do you remember about the first time you attended a funeral?

Read John 11:1-44.

- What sticks out to you in this passage? What questions do you have?
- Where in the passage do you see evidence of Jesus' humanity?
- What in the passage do we see evidence of Jesus connection to God's divinity?
- Why do you think Jesus waits in Jerusalem before making the short journey to Bethany? Do you think the disciples or Mary or Martha had any awareness of his reason at the time?

In John 11:25-26 Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

- What did Martha think Jesus meant when Jesus said: "Your brother will rise again."
- Why do you think Jesus said he was both the resurrection and the life? Why 'life' too?
- What does Jesus mean when he says "Whoever lives by believing in me will never die?"

What do you think is the hardest kind of human suffering? Why?

Do you think the hardest aspects of suffering are different for different people?

It has been said "By taking it on himself, Jesus dignified pain."

- Do you agree with that statement? In what ways did Jesus dignify pain?
- How does Jesus experiencing pain help us in ours?

Pastor David talked about how everyone worldview has to reckon with the challenge of suffering.

- Which two other worldviews did David talk about in the message?
- What other worldviews can you think of that give answers to pain?
- Are there other aspects of the Christian response to pain that David did not bring up in the message? If so, what are they and how do they speak to our experience of pain?

Application:

When we are hurting and 'wondering why' there are some key steps to processing and healing.

-For you, what practical steps would you need to take to connect with God?

-For you, how would you connect with another person in your pain?

Prayer

- Share praises and prayer requests with one another.

Guided prayer: Father, sometimes we've wondered how You can be good all the time, especially when we see or experience pain. Thank You for being bigger than our feelings and for giving us the gift of Jesus. Please be with us in our doubts and questions, and use it all to bring us closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen.