GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 4, 2021

I CAN'T BELIEVE IN A GOD WHO...
Allows Suffering
John 11
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NOTES

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Open with prayer. (2-5 min)
2. Share your story ... *Do you know anyone who has actually said, "I can't believe in a God who ... _____? If so, how did he or she complete that sentence? Have you ever been in a place where you said some version of this statement? If so, how did you complete the sentence? (7-10 min).*
3. Read John 11:1-44
4. Discuss these questions with your group. (20-45 min)

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:21)

Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." (John 11:32)

Why did Jesus respond to Martha and Mary differently, even though they made the same statement to him?

Why is it important to figure out what someone really needs before attempting to help him or her?

In **this** *you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials. (1 Peter 1:6)*

Read 1 Peter 1:1-6. What is *"this"*—the thing in which we are to rejoice? What is it about this thing that makes sense of our suffering?

How can a believer rejoice and be grieving at the same time?

Looking back at your notes from this week's message, was there anything you heard for the first time, stuck with you, challenged or confused you?

What is the one important thing you will take away from this weekend's message or our community group discussion? Is there any challenge, difficulty or praise that you would like to share with the group for prayer?

LIVING IN 4D

Who in your circle of influence might be struggling with the problem of suffering? What's a tangible way to communicate your concern for him or her (and perhaps open up an opportunity for dialogue)?

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