

Cell Notes 01 November 2015

Theme: Grief and Resurrection

Key words: Mary and Martha, Lazarus, saints, resurrection, grief, loss, persecution, martyrdom, compassion,

Note to group members: you will need a pen and paper.

Welcome

Invite each person to write on a piece of paper, "Lord Jesus if you loved us, you would not have let ____ die!" and each person may read out loud to the group what they wrote.

- How is it with your soul?

Worship

The Psalm for this week is Ps. 24

Sing: a song that draws attention to God compassion and Christ's power over death.

Open in prayer.

Word

John 11: 1-44

This is a long reading. You might want to dramatize it or take turns while reading it.

- What struck you about worship this past Sunday?
- What meaning does this passage of scripture have for you?
 - Where do you find yourself in the story?
 - What strikes you about Jesus in this story?
- Share stories about people you remember as 'saints' (heroes/heroines of faith who lived a courageous life).
 - What did you learn from them about the life of faith?
 - How do Jesus' words "*I am the resurrection and the life*" (vs.25-26) apply to
 - your life as a "saint"?
 - the lives of those you remember?

Works

- On the reverse of the piece of paper you used earlier write Jesus' answer: "*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die*" (Jn 11:25).
- Is there anything that's 'sucking the life out of you' at the moment? Write it down and pray about it.
- Pray for those who mourn.
- Reflect on where God may be calling you to instill new hope.

A poem of thanksgiving

I Praise You for this Resurrection Madness
Lord of such amazing surprises...

I praise you for this joy,
too great for words...

for this mercy
that blots out my betrayals
and bids me begin again,
to limp on,
to hop-skip-and-jump on,
to mend what is broken in and around me,
and to forgive the breakers;

for this YES
to life and laughter,
to love and lovers,
and to my unwinding self;
for this kingdom
unleashed in me and I in it forever,
and no dead ends to growing,
to choices,
to chances,
to calls to be just;

no dead ends to living,
to making peace,
to dreaming dreams,
to being glad of heart;

for this resurrection madness
which is wiser than I
and in which I see
how great you are,
how full of grace.
Alleluia!

Ted Loder