

Small Group Questions for the Week of March 22, 2015

The following questions are taken from the book entitled John: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups by N.T. Wright. Please do not feel compelled to ask every question that is listed below. You know your group better than the person writing the questions. Ask the questions that are best for your group, and questions that you yourself are comfortable answering.

1. Read John 11:1-37. What is Jesus response when he first hears that Lazarus is sick?
2. The opening section (vv. 1-16) is about the ways in which Jesus surprises people and overturns their expectations. How does Jesus do this in these verses?
3. In what ways has Jesus surprised you and overturned your expectations of what it means to follow him?
4. Jesus tells them a strange little saying that people that walk in the daytime don't trip up, but people who walk around in darkness do (vv. 9-10). What point was Jesus trying to make?
5. Jesus bursts into tears at the moment he sees Mary, and all the Judeans with her, in tears (vv. 33-35). The Word, through whom the worlds were made, weeps like a baby at the grave of his friend. Only when we stop and ponder this will we understand the full mystery of John's Gospel.

How does this challenge the way people – including many Christians – often understand God?

Pray

Approach Jesus with your grief and frustration just as Martha did, pray urgently to him, and then listen for the way he cries and bears this pain along with you. Pray that you may trust wholly in the one who is the resurrection and the life and wait patiently for him to come and call you forth into his wonderful resurrection life as well.