

Grace Group Discipleship Guide

“It's Not Over Till It's Over”

For the week of February 11 - February 17, 2018

Main Passage:

“When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.³⁴ ‘Where have you laid him?’ he asked. ‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied.³⁵ Jesus wept.³⁶ Then the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’³⁷ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.³⁹ ‘Take away the stone,’ he said. ‘But, Lord,’ said Martha, the sister of the dead man, ‘by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.’⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me.⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go.’” (John 11:32-44)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

Main Thought:

When life doesn't go our way, the Bible teaches us how we are to respond.

- 1. We need to remember that Jesus cares deeply about us and desires our ultimate good.** Jesus weeping over the sorrow of Mary and Martha reveals God's heart of love and compassion for us.
- 2. There is nothing that is “dead” in our lives that God cannot resurrect.** If Jesus can raise Lazarus from the dead, there is nothing so broken in our lives that He can't fix. It's not over until He says it's over.

3. When things don't go our way, God has something greater in store for us. Jesus used Lazarus' death to show everyone He was in fact God by bringing Him back to life. Something that seemed bad for Mary and Martha was used by God for the salvation of many.

God is always working for our good because He loves us. The question is NOT, "can God work in my life?" Rather, "will we trust Him and follow Him with our lives?"

Scripture Exploration:

- What stands out to you from the main passages and the main thought above?

Personal Reflection:

- What area of your life do you find it difficult to fully trust and follow God in? Why do you think that is so?

Active Application:

- How do you think you can begin trusting and following Him more closely? What practical steps can you take to do so?

Close in Prayer:

- Pray for everyone to fully trust in God's love in an area of difficulty.
- Pray that God will use each of us to share God's love with someone far from God.

