

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of December 11 - 17, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Through Jesus, we not only receive the gift of eternal life, but also have the opportunity to experience a new life on earth. One of Jesus' amazing miracles was raising to life a man who was dead for four days. This demonstrates that Jesus has power over sin, death, and life itself. If we place our trust in Him, we can experience that same power to be "unbound" from sin. This occurs through obedience to His word and by allowing others to help "unbind" us in discipleship relationships.

See John 11:38-44 ESV

- **Lazarus, though dead, obeyed the voice of Jesus when ordered to "come out." We too are called to obey the Word of God.**
- **Notice that Lazarus was still "bound" in his burial wrappings.**
- **Jesus enlisted the help of others to "unbind" him.**

*"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved."
(Ephesians 2:4-5 NIV)*

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

We can see others "unbound" when we lead them closer to God and help them to process their pain:

1. Make them feel safe.
2. Start a conversation.
3. Ask them to tell their story.
4. Listen carefully with empathy.
5. Pray for them in the moment.
6. Tell them about Jesus & share your story.

Discussion Questions:

(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss)

- What stands out to you from the main thought and scriptures above and why?
- Share one area in your life that you experienced newness of life and became “unbound” from sin. What did you obey from His word and/or how did others help you in that process?
- How can God use you to help someone else to be “unbound” from their old life and experience the love of God.

Prayer:

- Pray for each other for any area in life (eg. unforgiveness, fear, depression, lust) that needs to experience Jesus’ power and freedom from sin.
- Pray for someone in your life that you believe God is calling you to help “unbind” to experience the transforming power of God’s love.