

CHRISTMAS COMES TO BETHANY: John 11:28-37

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Martha calls Jesus "The Teacher" in verse 28. In John chapter 10 Jesus is called "The Good Shepherd" (vs 11). Think of one additional title Scripture gives Jesus, and come up with one of your own.
3. Describe the differences in Martha and Mary's personalities (see, too, Luke 10:38-42 and John 12:1-3), and how you see Jesus responding to meet the need of each of them.
4. Challenge yourself to write five statements based on what you can learn from verse 35, "Jesus wept." I.e. There is no shame in weeping, Jesus can identify with grief, etc. Share one with your group.
5. Is death a part of God's will for us? Why or why not?
6. How is the culturally American way of expressing grief helpful and/or hurtful?
7. How are God's sovereignty (his right and power to do all things that He decides to do) and His sympathy (see Hebrews 4:15) critically related?
8. As this week ends the Life Group semester, read through the remaining verses of John's account of the resurrection of Lazarus (through verse 46) and write down one thought, observation, or question to share with your group.
9. This third week of advent celebrates love. What tradition do you have (or could you begin) that incorporates love this Christmas season?