

# Group Conversation Guide

## Week of July 6, 2025

**Series:** It's Personal: A Study in John  
**Title:** The Grave Doesn't Stand A Chance  
**Text:** John 11:1–44

**CAV Point:** Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Our grief is real, but the grave doesn't get the final word.

### BEFORE YOUR MEETING

- Watch or attend the weekend message by Pastor Jay Austin at [churchatviera.com/live](http://churchatviera.com/live).
- Pray for your group that those grieving will be comforted, those doubting will believe, and everyone would experience Jesus as the Resurrection and Life.

### ICEBREAKER

**Q:** What's a memory of someone you've lost that brings a smile to your face?

### BEGIN THE CONVERSATION

#### Jesus Delays, but He's Not Late

**Read John 11:1–6**

- How do you think Mary and Martha felt when Jesus didn't come right away?
- Jesus loved them deeply—so why would He wait?
- What does it tell you about Jesus that He would not bring healing for the sake of something greater?

Where in your life are you waiting for God to move and struggling to understand His timing?

#### Jesus Meets Us Where We Are

**Read John 11:17–27**

- How does Martha respond to Jesus? What does this say about her faith and her pain?
- Jesus declares: "I am the resurrection and the life." What does that mean to you personally that Jesus IS the resurrection and the life, not simply performing a resurrection?
- How does Jesus' conversation with Martha help us face grief and loss today?

Do you tend to be more like Martha, a questioner? Or Mary, carrying deep sorrow? Is there questions or sorrows that you need Jesus to meet with you today?

## **Jesus Weeps With Us**

**Read John 11:28–37**

- Jesus knew He would raise Lazarus, so why do you think He still wept?
- What does this moment reveal about the heart of God toward our pain?
- What do we learn or understand from how Jesus responds to Mary's grief and the crowd's doubt?

Is there grief that you need to bring honestly to Jesus, knowing He will meet you with compassion, not condemnation?

## **Jesus Calls Us Out of the Grave**

**Read John 11:38–44**

- What stands out to you about this moment?
- Jesus says: "Lazarus, come out!" Is there a part of your life that feels stuck? (grief, fear, depression, doubt)
- How can we apply the idea that Jesus has others "take off the grave clothes" to our relationships?

What would it look like for you to respond in faith to Jesus' call to "come out"? Is there anything that needs to be left behind?

## **GROUP REFLECTION / APPLICATION**

- How can we encourage and care for one another what feeling the weight of grief, loss, or hopelessness?
- How can we practically remove "grave clothes" from one another, offering support, prayer, and hope?

How does Jesus' resurrections change the way we look at death, grief, and eternity?

## **WORSHIP TOGETHER**

**"Graves Into Gardens" – Elevation Worship**

<https://youtu.be/kTvv-9zosPs?si=whjzTBMYYVnt2sMUF>

## **PRAYER TOGETHER**

- Thank Jesus for being the Resurrection and the Life, for His deep compassion. Pray for those in the group carrying grief, despair, or doubt.