

## CG GUIDE

### Prepare the Way: Friendship and Resurrection Life

**Icebreaker:** Describe a time when you were waiting for something important, and it felt “too late,” but the outcome surprised you in a good way. How did God use this to shape your faith?

**Read:** John 11:34–44

#### **Passage Summary:**

In John 11:34–44, Jesus arrives at Lazarus’ tomb after four days—long enough for hope to feel gone and death to seem final. Mary and Martha are grieving, the crowd is questioning, and Jesus Himself weeps. But Jesus doesn’t stop at compassion; He steps into death’s territory. He commands the stone to be rolled away, prays so the crowd will believe, and calls Lazarus out of the grave by name. Lazarus emerges alive, still wrapped in grave clothes, and Jesus instructs the community to unbind him. The story reveals a Friend who loves deeply, enters our pain, and brings resurrection life where death once ruled.

**Takeaway:** Friendship with Jesus leads to resurrection life.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. What stood out to you most in this passage, and why?
2. What does this story show you about Jesus’ heart toward His friends?
3. How do you see Jesus’ timing, delay, or purpose at work in this story?
4. Where do you see yourself in Mary, Martha, Lazarus, or the crowd?
5. What does Jesus’ weeping show you about His heart toward your pain?
6. What “stone” might Jesus be asking you to roll away—something He wants you to open, surrender, or trust Him with?

7. What “grave clothes” still cling to you—old patterns, lies, fears, or identities Jesus wants to remove?
  
8. What step of friendship with Jesus is He inviting you to take this week?

**Take Action:** What step will you take this week to walk in friendship with Jesus and live out the resurrection life He’s given you?”

**Closing Prayer Prompt:**

Jesus, you are the resurrection and the Life. Help us trust your love even when your timing confuses us. Enter our grief, speak into our dead places, and call us into new life. Show us the stones we need to roll away and the grave clothes you want to remove. Teach us to walk as your friends—loved, led, and made alive in You.