

John 11:17-44

"In Hard Times, Who Do You Trust?"

I. Introduction

****Pass out the name tags, and sharpies at the beginning of class!**

Then take the first few minutes to introduce yourselves. If you have family members who go to the church tell people who you are related to! The older folks in our church love connecting you to your parents or grandparents. Say something like....

"Hi, my name is _____, some of you might know my Parents *John and Jane Doe* or my Grandparents *Jim and Pam Doe*."

II. Game

Say: We are going to continue now by playing a game.

Game Instructions

Guess Who

- 1) Pass out a note card and a pen to everyone in the class
- 2) Tell them all that they will be writing down two facts about themselves
- 3) Everyone should keep their answers private so everyone can guess
- 4) After they have written down their facts, the note cards will be turned in.
- 5) You read each card, and everyone can discuss and then vote on who they think each specific note card belongs to.

Say: "This game is called Guess Who. Each one of you will receive a note card and a pen. On the note card, you should answer these two questions. **Question 1)** What is the hardest most rewarding thing you have ever done? It could be a hard hike, finishing a big project, or anything that comes to mind. **Question 2)** If you were a kitchen utensil, what would you be? (Think about your traits and how those might translate to helpful kitchen items. Or just be punny with it.) After you have answered these on your note card, turn them back in to us. We will read them aloud, one by one, and you will have the chance to discuss as a group and vote on who you think wrote the answer."

Say: "Thank you all for participating in our game! We are going to be studying John chapter 11 this morning. But before we jump into that, we want to let you know that we need your participation. This lesson is set up for us to ask you questions as we think about the topic of trusting in Jesus. In student ministry we always have a few opening questions to introduce the topic. Here are our opening questions...."

///. Bible Study Lesson

Opening Questions:

1. Who is the most evil or scary villain from a book or movie in your opinion?
 - a. **Answer:** *Answers will vary.*
2. Now, pretend that villain was chasing you down, what fictional hero would you need / want defending you?
 - a. **Answer:** *Answers will vary.*

SAY: *If we had any of those villains chasing us, it would certainly make things difficult. Today, we're going to read about a family who was going through a hard season of their own and needed someone to put their trust in. As we talk about and read today's passage, I want you to think about who the real villain of this passage is and what is the main character doing to protect us from the villain.*

SAY: "Can Someone please read John 11:17-44"

Passage Questions:

1. What part of this passage caught your attention the most?
 - a. **Answer:** Allow people to think about it for a second. *(If no one is speaking up, maybe try calling out someone in the group by saying "what about you JACK, what stood out to you?")*
2. Thinking back to the passage, who is the first to meet Jesus when he arrives in Bethany?
 - a. **Answer:** (direct people to look at verse 20 if they can't remember.) Martha is the first person to meet him, and Mary stayed behind.
3. How do you think Martha feels? What do you think she might be thinking when she first sees Jesus?
 - a. **Answer:** Answers will vary. Martha could feel a mix of anger that Jesus wasn't there when Lazarus was sick, relief and comfort to see Jesus, hopefulness at his arrival, or other emotions.
4. Jesus says, "Your brother will rise again." When does Martha think this will happen?
 - a. **Answer:** "Look at verse 24." Martha expects Lazarus to rise when God calls all believers to heaven to be with him. She does not seem to expect this to happen very soon.
5. Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life." What do you think he means?
 - a. **Answer:** It's impossible completely unpack this in one sitting, but at the very least Jesus means that he is the resurrection that Mary and Martha are waiting on. They don't have to wait for the resurrection at the end of time, because Jesus is

the power of the resurrection, and he is already with them. Jesus is also clarifying that he is life itself. Death cannot defeat Jesus or anyone who has faith in him.

6. Let's think about what this passage teaches us about Jesus' character. Name some of his attributes on display in this passage.
 - a. **Answer:** Encourage thoughtful and different answers. Jesus is compassionate, both in how he treats the sisters and in his grieving for Lazarus. He is honest in his prayer and in his responses to Martha. He is all powerful, shown by his power over even death.
7. When Jesus first gets to the tomb. He cries. Why is this important? What can we learn about Jesus from this?
 - a. **Answer:** It shows that he was human just like us. He felt the pain of loss and death just as deeply as we feel it.
8. According to Jesus, how do we defeat death?
 - a. **Answer:** In verses 25-26, Jesus says that anyone who believes in him will live, and their life won't be taken away by death. They will have an everlasting kind of life.
9. How do you think Mary and Martha feel after Lazarus is resurrected? How do you think they feel about Jesus now?
 - a. **Answers may vary.** The Bible doesn't tell us what happens next. It is likely that Mary and Martha are thankful and joyful, but they might also be repentant for any anger they felt toward Jesus earlier.

SAY: "The BIG IDEA for the day is that – We can trust Jesus in our most difficult times." Now we are going to spend a few minutes reflecting on the passage and discussing how we might apply this to our life."

Reflect on the Passage:

1. Why is resurrection an important part of our faith?
 - a. **Answer:** **HAVE SOMEONE Read Romans 6:4-11.** We experience death and sin, but because of the resurrection, we will not experience those things forever. Once we are resurrected, we will experience eternal, lasting, abundant life with God. As the church, we remember these truths and participate in them through baptism. In baptism, the going under water represents dying, then coming back up represents beginning a new life in Christ.
2. Mary and Martha both have full confidence that Jesus could heal a sick man, but they doubt that he can raise the dead. What is a part of your life that it is easy to trust Jesus with? A part of life you doubt him with?
 - a. **Answer:** *Answers will vary. Encourage participants to be vulnerable and maybe even share your own vulnerable answer.*
3. Overall, Mary and Martha are going through a difficult time in this passage. How do you feel like they treat Jesus during this difficult time? Do you think they are inviting him in or pushing him away?
 - a. **Answer:** Answers will vary, but in general Mary and Martha seem to be upset with Jesus and blame him instead of inviting him to mourn with them. When we go through challenging times it is easy for us to blame God, since he does have the power to save us or to prevent the difficult times. A better response is to be

honest about what we are feeling, and invite him to feel it with us, then ask him to help. But it is so hard to react like this when we're in a hard time, so it is important for us to practice inviting him in to our lives now during the regular times.

4. In a difficult time, how do we treat Jesus? What might help us to pull him close?
 - a. *Answers may vary.*

Say: "Remember, our BIG IDEA for the day is that we can trust Jesus in our most difficult times."

***START PASSING OUT "LIVE IT OUT" CARDS

Say: "Every week we like to take our Bible study beyond the 4 walls of the church. We are typically given 3 ways that we can Live Out the lesson we have learned. So today we are going to pass out these cards for you to take with you. We would like you to commit to practicing one of these during the coming week. Please take one of these cards and take a look at your options."

Live It Out:

Pray – Spend time each day this week telling God about your highs and lows in prayer. This is a way of practicing vulnerability and openness with God so that when the big highs come, we praise God and when the big lows come, we ask God for help.

Confess – When we are going through a tempting time or a difficult time, it is important to talk to others and to God about it. Today, ask someone to talk, then this week tell them about what you're going through. Ask them to pray for you. Pray and tell God about what you're going through and pray that you trust him more during this time.

Read – 1 Corinthians 15 is one of the primary places that the Bible teaches about the resurrection. Read it this week and think about how Jesus' resurrection and our resurrection are connected and why they are important.

Pray: Now if you'll bow your heads and pray with us. "Dear Lord, thank you for your son, Jesus who was tempted in every way that we are, but remained righteous. We confess this morning that we have sinned against you by not trusting in you fully. Help us to trust you with all of our heart, and not to trust in ourselves. We love you Lord, Amen."

End class by saying: "Thank you all for having us this morning! We hope to see you next year!"