

Life Group Discussion Guide

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEELING THE STING

JOHN 11

Stuart Jones - February 26, 2017



INTRODUCTION

We often hear, "I will do it myself," or "I got this and don't need any help." There are many things we can fix all on our own, normally physical sorts of things—flat tires, torn clothing or broken furniture. But filling the gap, that void in our lives caused by loss, is not something we alone can fix.

Generals often witness loss of life in numbers that are difficult to comprehend; one of those great military leaders was General Robert E. Lee. Where did the powerful leader go to find hope? Who did he turn to for help? In General Lee's own words, "In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength."

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Tell the group about a time when you asked for someone's help, but they failed to come through for you? How did you feel? What did you do?
2. Have you ever felt like God failed you? Tell the group about it.

EVALUATE IT

1. Read John 11:21&32. Were Mary and Martha out of line? Do you withhold asking God the big why questions because you're afraid of being disrespectful? Why or why not?
2. How did Jesus comfort Mary and Martha? Stuart said, "Comfort comes from, not from a place of authority above you, but from a place of empathy beside you." How does God comfort us when we hurt?
3. Read John 11:35. What does the shortest verse in the bible teach you about Jesus?
4. Stuart explained that Jesus is the one who overcomes. Read 1 Corinthians 15:51. What promise is Paul guaranteeing? Does this give you hope? Why or why not?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. Stuart said, "Death puts us face to face with our frailty, face to face with our own mortality, face to face with our faith." In your loss, do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? Do you believe that living is found in him? Why or why not?
2. When you think about death, what stirs up fear in you? What stirs up peace in you?

It's not that I'm afraid to die. I just don't want to be there when it happens.

-Woody Allen

Scripture never condemns grief. Tears are valuable. They are God-given relief mechanisms. There are some who chide tears as unmanly, unsubmitive, unchristian. They would comfort us with a chill and pious stoicism, bidding us meet the most agitating passages of our history with rigid and tearless countenance. With such the spirit of the Gospel, and of the Bible, has little sympathy. We have no sympathy with a morbid sentimentality; but we may well question whether the man who cannot weep can really love; for sorrow is love, widowed and bereaved—and where that is present, its most natural expression is in tears. Religion does not come to make us unnatural and inhuman; but to purify and ennoble all those natural emotions with which our manifold nature is endowed. Jesus wept. Peter wept. The Ephesian converts wept on the neck of the Apostle whose face they were never to see again. Christ stands by each mourner, saying, "Weep, my child; weep, for I have wept."

- F. B. Meyer, Abraham



Interested in joining or starting a Life Group?
Contact our Life Groups Minister.

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