

Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

Encounters with Jesus: Jesus Defeats Death (Luke 7:11–17)

Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- Tell us a little about someone who was important in your life when you were ten years old.
- Tell us about a movie that makes you cry.
- If you could travel back in time to talk to someone who has passed away, who would you choose?

Dig

After reading Luke 7:11–17 together, discuss these questions.

1. As the story begins, Luke mentions that the disciples and a great crowd were present. Why do you think that was an important detail to include?
2. What do we learn about the son who was dead and his mother in verse 12? What do these details suggest to you about the situation?
3. Jesus is called “the Lord” in verse 13. What does that title suggest to you? Why do you think it is important in this story?
4. Luke tells us that Jesus had compassion on the woman. What does that detail add to your understanding of these events?
5. Verse 15 echoes 1 Kings 17:23. Read that story in 1 Kings 17:17–24. How is the story of Jesus similar? What differences do you notice. How does Jesus compare to Elijah?
6. Note the reaction of the people in Luke 7:16–17. What effect has this event had on them?

Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- Death is frightening, whether our own or a loved one’s. How does the Bible’s teaching about Jesus’ raising the widow’s son, his own resurrection, and our promised resurrection affect your view of death? Less scary? Hopeful? Uncertain? Still trying to grasp this? Not sure?
- Has someone ever been a comfort to you in a time of grief or fear? How did that person bring comfort to you? What might we learn from that experience?
- What feels like death to you right now? How can you give that to the care of the Lord?

Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- Who do we know in grief or serious illness for whom we can pray for the Lord’s strength, comfort, and assurance?
- What do you need from the Lord as you face the uncertainty of life and the reality of death?
- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?