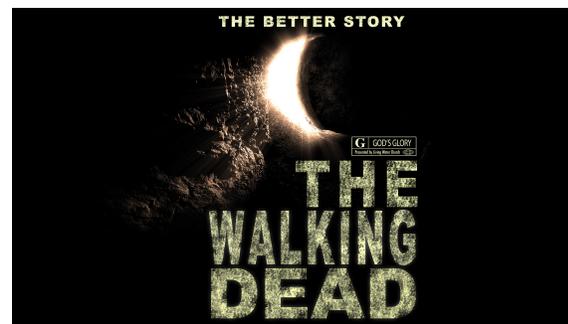




Living Water
Church

Diving Deeper: A Gather Group discussion guide
or personal devotional guide



The Walking Dead

Introduction: The TV series “The Walking Dead” is a big series hit viewed by millions. A post apocalyptic world unleashes zombies (the walkers) who are after those who are alive (the walking dead). The Bible, however, tells the better story. A story of a man who was dead that came back to life. The miracle of Lazarus being raised from the dead is a picture of regeneration into new life in Christ. People who are not in Christ—are in reality “The Walking Dead” that can only be brought to life through the power of Christ.

Text: John 11:1-44

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: Have you had someone close to you die? How did God comfort you in your time of grief and sorrow?
2. When Jesus heard that Lazarus was ill, he waited 2 days before going to him. Lazarus died during the delay. How do you respond in your walk with Christ when he delays?
3. Why did Jesus delay? See John 11:4. How does knowing that God brings glory in ways that we can't imagine comfort you in life's toughest trials?
4. Martha and Mary both responded the same when they saw Jesus. They said, “If you would have been here, my brother would not have died.” They believed in the power of Jesus to heal. They knew that Jesus was who their brother needed. How motivated are you to get your friends, family, co-workers to Jesus? Do you see that Jesus is the greatest need in the lives of those who do not believe?
5. John 11:25-26. Jesus claims all authority over death. He claims to be the resurrection. What does this say about the Christian faith and how it varies from other beliefs?
6. John 11:43—Jesus said, “Lazarus, Come out.” The power of Jesus is revealed in this miracle. The glory of God is revealed and it is evident that Jesus has power over death. He calls the dead to life. What hope does this give to believer's?
7. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. How are we like Lazarus? The Bible makes it clear that we are born with a sin nature after our first parents Adam and Eve. Apart from Christ, WE are “The Walking Dead.” The bible declares that we are dead in our sins. People walk around every day—thinking they are alive—but are really dead. How is Lazarus being raised from the dead similar to being raised to spiritual life?
8. Read Ephesians 2:4-5. Who is responsible for bringing dead souls to life?
9. After raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus told them to unbind him. He was wrapped in grave clothes because he was dead, but now was alive. People often walk around in grave clothes and it binds them. What are some “grave clothes” that lead to death? What are things that you need to take off that hinders your walk with Christ?

Think About it:

Apart from Christ, we are dead in our sins and need a miracle of God. Salvation is an act of God performed by God for the glory of God. He alone brings dead souls to life and is the guarantee for life eternal.

Moving Forward:

If you are a believer, thank God every day for bringing you to life! Live out your faith and bring glory to His great name. Pray for those around you and share the good news when the opportunity presents itself. Walk free from grave clothes and put on the new clothes that God gives you to wear.