

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

John 11:45-57

Ice-breaker: What is an evidence of God's grace you've experienced this week?

DISCUSSION 1: Responses to the Resurrection of Lazarus

1. What has happened in the previous chapter that we should remember before reading this passage?
2. What are the two responses we read about in John 11:45-46 to Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead?
3. Looking at our text, why do you think some people went to the Pharisees? Why was Jesus' popularity so problematic for them? What did they perceive as the political ramifications?
4. How do you reconcile the religious leaders hearing and affirming Jesus' miraculous signs yet still plotting to kill him? Why aren't signs enough to make people believe? Have you ever prayed for God to give you a sign? What is Jesus' purpose for signs and wonders in the gospel of John?
5. The Bible tells us that sin blinds and deceives us. How does sin blind us from seeing the truth about Jesus? How does sin deceive us today (both inside and outside the church) into believing that right is wrong and wrong is right? How do we avoid being blinded and deceived by sin?

DISCUSSION 2: One Man for the People

1. What did Caiaphas the high priest think he was saying in vs 50? What was he trying to persuade his audience to do?
2. The high priest rationalized killing Jesus as the best of two options. What were his motivations? How and why do we rationalize our sin? Why is rationalizing sin so easy for us to do?
3. What was the greater word that God was prophesying through Caiaphas concerning Jesus?
4. What does it mean that Christ died in our place? Why is it necessary for Jesus to die for us? Why couldn't God save the world from sin another way? What are some ways we try earn our salvation rather than trusting in the atoning work of Christ?
5. In vs 51, it says that Caiaphas said this not of his own accord. Read Acts 2:22-24 & Gen. 50:20. How do these passages help us to understand this passage in John and more broadly understand God's sovereignty and human responsibility? How would you answer the question, "who killed Jesus?"
6. How does vs 52 inform the evangelistic mission of the church?

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How has God used something hard in your life and used it for good?
- Why is it good that Jesus died on a cross?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- **Deceitfulness of Sin:** Gen. 3:13, Duet. 11:16, 1 Cor. 3:19, 2 Cor. 4:4, John 8:44, 2 Tim. 4:10, Rom. 7:11, Gal. 6:7, 2 Cor. 11:3,
- **Substitutionary Atonement:** Exodus 12, Is. 53:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21; Acts 2:38; John 1:29,36, John 3:16; Hebrews 2:14; 9:11-12; 10:12-14
- **God's Sovereignty:** Gen. 50:20, Psalm 15:3, Romans 9, Acts 2:22-24, Eph. 1:3-14, 1 Peter 1:3-5