**Growth Group Bible Study**

“Encountering Jesus”

For This We Have Jesus

Lesson 8

February 25, 2018

**Reading** John 11:1-44

**Opening Questions**

1. Who is the person you have lost to death that you have grieved the most over? How have you experienced and coped with your grief?

2. In what helpful ways have people come along side of you with your grief? What have been some “unhelpful” ways?

3. Fill in the blank of this sentence:

 “For this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (current situation, circumstance, struggle, pain etc.) I have Jesus.

**Study**

1. What was Jesus’ relationship with Martha, Mary and Lazarus?

 cf. 11:3, 36 and Luke 10:38-42

2. What do we learn from John 11:1-17 as to why Jesus delayed in going to Lazarus in his sickness and how did the disciples react?

3. What evidence does Martha give of her trust in Jesus and what does Jesus emphasize to her about life and death? cf. John 11:21-27

4. What promises do we have as Christians in facing our own death?

 cf. II Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:21-23

5. What can we conclude from Mary’s encountering Jesus (vv28-33) and Jesus not rebuking her for her weeping (grief)?

6. Jesus became “deeply moved in spirit and troubled” (11:33) which are terms of anger and agitation. What was affecting Jesus and what does it tell us about death?

7. How do we “have Jesus” in His promises regarding death for the Christian?

8. In 11:35 it says “Jesus wept”. What do we learn from this regarding Jesus’ comfort and compassion in our grief? How does Jesus “bring us” His comfort?

9. How important are tears in our grief etc.?

10. In what ways do we “have Jesus” in our grief through other Christians?

 cf. II Cor. 1:3-4; Rom. 12:5

11. In what practical ways can we bring comfort to those in grief? What can be some “wrong ways” to offer comfort?

**Application**

1. Think of someone you know who has or is going through grief and pray about ways you could offer comfort (e.g. a card, phone call, time with them etc.).