

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For week of March 21, 2021

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### MY STORY

Describe a time when a belief you had changed because your perspective changed.

**QUICK REVIEW:** Looking back at this week's teaching, was there a particular point, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you, or raised a question?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Martha's and Mary's "If only you had been here" reveals their puzzlement and disappointment in Jesus. Have you ever felt that way towards God? How did you handle it?

Jesus responded three ways to Lazarus' death—"deeply moved, greatly troubled, and weeping". What does this teach us about God's attitude toward our suffering?

We tend to judge God's character through the lens of our circumstances. What is the danger in that?

Psalm 73

When Martha objected to Jesus' command to remove the stone, what did that say about her belief in His power? How do we reveal our belief about the extent of His power?

Jesus prayed to His Father, "...I know you always hear me..." Does God always hear us?

1 John 5:13-15

Verse 48 gets to the heart of the Pharisees problem with Jesus—self-preservation. How does our own sense of self keep Jesus out of our lives? What's the solution?

Mt. 16:24-25 Gal. 2:20

Jesus consistently pointed people to His Father's perspective for them—the eternal. Does that mean He didn't care about the temporal aspect of their lives?

### PRAYER REQUEST

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## Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Small Group. We've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines:

### **WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME**

Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request. Once a request is introduced, the group focuses on that request. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

### **PRAY MORE THAN ONCE**

Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray out loud.

### **WE KEEP OUR PRAYERS SHORT & SIMPLE**

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused, and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Missionaries of the Month** Please pray for Roy and Margaret Fitzwater as they train disciple makers with the Navigators.

**Women's Bible Study** The women are starting a new study March 30<sup>th</sup>. Call the church office to join in.



## The Gospel of John---That You May Believe *A Shift in Perspective*

John 11:28-53 (ESV) Jim Vandermeer March 21, 2021

### **I Jesus' Compassion**

- He was deeply moved
- He was greatly troubled
- He wept

### **II Jesus' Teaching**

- God is the hero of the story.
- God is the one we go to in times of distress.
- God always hears.

### **III Jesus' Sacrifice**

- A physical perspective: Jesus' sacrifice served *their* purposes.
- A spiritual perspective: Jesus' sacrifice served *God's* purposes.