



- Desperate Prayers -

Ice-Breaker:

- Think back to a time when you longed for something to happen, and prayed a prayer of desperation that was not answered the way you had hoped.
 - How did you react?
 - What (if anything) did you learn from that situation?

Discussion:

1. Read John 11:1-44

- How do you react when Jesus doesn't respond according to your timetable?
- What lessons might God have for you in those times of waiting?
- We know from other stories in the Scriptures (read Luke 10:38-42) that Martha was a very 'task-oriented person' (fact-driven) and Mary was more of a 'people-person' (feelings-driven). In this story, both Mary and Martha approach Jesus with the exact same statement: *'Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.'* Yet Jesus responded in different ways to each of them. He dialogued with Martha about the nature of the resurrection (facts), while He simply wept with Mary (feelings). What does this tell you about how God ministers to us according to our own unique personalities?
- Why do you suppose Jesus wept in this story, and what does Jesus' sadness tell you about His nature (the character of God)?
- In this story, Jesus showed that He holds the power over life and death. How can that simple truth comfort you in your desperate prayer (longing)?
- Why do you think Jesus tells the people around Lazarus to unwrap him?

2. Read Ephesians 3:16-20.

- What does this passage teach us about the power available to us in Christ?
- How does this passage encourage you in your desperate prayer (longing)?

Personal Application:

- Identify your desperate prayer / longing (something you really want to see happen in life, but it's not happening right now the way you'd like). What will you do to take your eyes off your desperate longing and put your eyes on Jesus instead?