Miracles - Lazarus

Main Idea: This week we dig into the miracle of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. This is one of the most powerful miracles Jesus performed. What we see in this miracle is that even when we aren’t getting the answers we are looking for, God still has a plan. As Pastor Mitch said, “Setbacks are the backdrop for comebacks”. Let’s dive into John 11 and see how God worked through this miracle.

Opening Discussion Question
Jesus performed many miracles in the Bible. Share with the group which one is your favorite and why.

Read John 11

1. We all have gone through some difficult times in our lives. How we handle them is crucial. What are some of the ways we handle difficult times in a wrong manner?

2. In the previous question we talked about how we often wrongly handle problems, but the Bible has a lot to say about how we should correctly handle the challenges of life. What do you think are some good responses when facing adversity?

3. After hearing about the death of Lazarus, Jesus did something that would be a little strange to us; He waited 2 days. Why do you think Jesus waited to go to Lazarus?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

4. In 1 Thessalonians 4 Paul spoke of the importance of being correctly informed. To Paul, this information would help ground our experiences in faith. How do our experiences of grief and hope remind us of our faith in Jesus? What do they reveal to us to help us stand firm in the midst of difficulty?

5. How has God brought about good in the midst of the difficulty you, or those around you, have experienced?
Next Steps: Take some time this week to reflect on the difficult times in your life. If you are in the middle of a storm, spend some time in prayer. Consider how you cope when facing adversity in your life.

1. **Spend time with God.** Pray that God will help you deal with the struggles you are having. Devote some time reading and studying the Bible this week.

2. **Share your story with others.** God uses the situations in our lives to help others. By sharing with others, you may be able to get some help from them and/or be able to help them.

3. **Trust God.** Trust that God will help you get through whatever storm you are going through. Remember what Pastor Mitch said in the message, “Setbacks are the backdrop for a comeback.”

Reading Plan
Sunday – Luke 11
Monday – 1 Thessalonians 4
Tuesday – Ephesians 2
Wednesday – Hebrews 11
Thursday – Psalm 23
Friday – John 10
Saturday – John 8