

Have We Got New For You - Week 3 - Is there good news in the pain of loss?

Discussion time

As we approach the year anniversary of the Covid 19 pandemic....

- What's your fun memory from this past year? Something that makes you smile or laugh?
One of the phrases Leon mentioned was, 'grieve your losses and celebrate your learnings'
- Looking back, what are some of your losses and learnings from this year?
- How hard can it be at times to grieve our losses?
Look at the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead....
Read John 11 v.1-37
- Here Jesus meets them in their pain of loss and grief, what impacts you from this story?
- What questions might you have had of Jesus if you were Martha or Mary?

Application time

Consider these 4 statements and discuss what they mean to you in reality....

Jesus invites us to **verbalise** our pain

Jesus encourages us to **normalise** our pain

Jesus shows that he will **empathise** with our pain

Jesus promises he will **transform** our pain

- In what ways are these statements such good news?
- In what ways do these statements give you hope and perspective....
'**Jesus doesn't always remove pain but he can always transform it**'
- What's been your personal experience of this?

Prayer and reflection time

As we stand with our nation on this day (Tuesday) of national reflection....

Spend some time praying for our nation

Spend some time praying for each other's losses and learnings this year

Maybe encourage people to light a candle in their front window

Dear God,

Be with us as we think about all that has changed this year,

And help us to trust that you are always with us.

Be close to us as we remember those who have died,

And help us to trust they are at peace with you.

Show us how to reach out to others with kindness and care,

So that hope shines out in every heart and home,

Amen

God of Love,

As we think about all that has changed this year,

help us to trust that you are always with us.

As we remember those who have died,

help us to trust they are at peace with you.

As we reach out to others with kindness and care,

may hope shine out in every heart and home.

Amen

Going deeper

Read John 11 v. 38 - 44

Here Jesus doesn't just bring good news in their pain of loss he goes on to raise Lazarus from the dead!

What strikes you from this part of the story?

How do you explain the relationship between what Jesus did and what he asked others to do here?

What could it mean for us to 'take off the grave clothes and let him go'?

How do we balance the truth that Jesus can and does heal and yet sometimes he doesn't?