



Sermon-based reflections connect the week to the weekend!

Dig deeper into the talk each week, in a small group or independently. Challenge yourself to see how the message actually makes sense and applies to your everyday life.

Message Info: My Story, His Glory, 8/13/23 - There's no denying: we are short-sighted. Everyone experiences times of questioning God amidst tragedy. "If only" kind of moments, that we can't imagine anything good could follow. Things may not go the way we expect, but we can always rely on the goodness of God. (*Passages: John 11:1-45, Romans 8:28*)

Discussion Questions: Take your time and dig into these questions.

Where do you run when you are distressed? What do you look to for comfort? Where is God? Does it seem like he has disappeared? Do you think he truly has?

Read John 11:1-45. What stands out to you in this passage? Why?

It's easy to think Martha and Mary were narrow-minded; their faith, weak. But we are no different. We are quick to believe we know the right way, and even scold God when we go through trials. Jesus made clear (v.4) that the illness and death of Lazarus were purposed for God's glory. Many were healed by Jesus during his time on earth. Do you think more came to faith because of Lazarus' being brought back to life? Isn't it easy to see in this story how God's way, though temporarily painful, was better? What could that mean for our own hardships?

Hindsight or a further vantage point can help us to see more clearly. God has a perfect plan and perfect timing to carry it out. Look over the takeaways from this passage below. Ask God to help you remember and apply them!

1. Run to Jesus; not away from him- don't seek comfort from empty distractions.
2. Our tragedy is not his fault- don't let expectations limit faith.
3. Jesus is with us, and mourns with us- we are not left alone in crisis; his heart is for us.
4. Our story is for other people too- others can see God's glory in our lives.
5. Jesus has the final say- things aren't over because we think they are hopeless. God's perfect plan will be carried out. We won't always understand how, but his goodness is reliable and unailing.

"God works all things out for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28

Weekly Challenge: Invite friends and register for "Flip-flops & Friends" on August 27th at Washington Twp Park in Pine Grove!

COME  **GROW**  **GO** 