

The Purpose of This Book

<sup>20</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>21</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.



that you may

# BELIEVE



## “DEATH: A STAGE FOR GOD’S GLORY” discussion questions

1. What are your earliest memories of a death occurring? Do you recall any hope in the midst of people’s grief? To what extent do you fear death?
2. All of Lazarus’ family and friends seemed to be stuck in the regretful “If-Only Syndrome” (see John 11:21, 32, and 37). What’s wrong with that mindset? Have you ever found yourself stuck there? How did you get out?
3. To what extent do you regard your days and the circumstances that befall you as a stage for God’s glory to be seen? As a group, brainstorm all the ways that we can glorify God in our ordinary lives. (Consider 1 Corinthians 10:31 to expand your thinking.)
4. Consider D.A. Carson’s words: “The same sin and death, the same unbelief, that prompted [Jesus’] outrage, also generated his grief. Those who follow Jesus as his disciples today do well to learn the same tension – that grief and compassion without outrage reduce to mere sentiment, while outrage without grief hardens into self-righteous arrogance.” Do you agree with this? Do you view God as an emotionally complex being? How have you experienced these multiple emotions of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, & acceptance?
5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. What does Paul mean by “not grieving as others do who have no hope?” When does grief become excessive? Why is it inappropriate according to Paul? Do you feel equipped to “encourage one another with these words,” as verse 18 says?



### The Book of John

The Word Became Flesh

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>7</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>8</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>9</sup> He was in the world, and the world did not know him. <sup>10</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>11</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>12</sup> Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>13</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>14</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’) <sup>15</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>16</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>17</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.