

Life Group Notes & Discussion Guide, Aprilth, 2025

Series: **“The Road to Calvary”**

Message: **“The Straw that Broke the Camel’s Back”**

Sermon Text: **John 11:45-53** Old Testament Text: **Isaiah 53:1-5**; New Testament Text: **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**.

Open to John 11 and follow along as Pr. Dave tells the story narratively. Then answer the questions below.

1. From what you learned in the sermon, why did Pr. Dave say Jesus delayed in going to see Lazarus?
2. How did Martha & Mary react to Jesus’s delay?
3. What amazing thing did Jesus do just minutes before He raised Lazarus from the dead?
4. What did Pr. Dave say this displayed about Jesus?
5. Why was the raising of Lazarus from the dead more “dramatic” than the raising of the widow’s son in Nain or the raising of Jairus’s daughter?
6. Read **John 11:45-46**. The Jews, who had witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead, had two different reactions. What were they?

7. Read **John 11:47-48**. What is it about Jesus that had the religious leaders so worried?

Are their concerns God-centered or self-centered?

8. Read **John 11:49-52**. What did Caiaphas prophesy before the religious leaders?

Do you think this convinced some of those, who were opposed to killing Jesus, to finally side with those who favored killing Him?

9. Read **John 11:53**. The religious leaders had thought about killing Jesus in the past. What has changed here?

10. What will you remember most from this message?

Discussion Guide for Your Life Group Meeting

- I. At your Life Group meeting, first read **Isaiah 53:1-5** aloud. It can be helpful to have several people each read one verse from their Bible. This helps people feel involved and can also introduce some interesting discussion if several translations are used. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. In **Isaiah 53:1**, what is Isaiah most concerned about?
 2. What point is Isaiah trying to impress upon us about the Messiah in **Isaiah 53:2**?
 3. From **Isaiah 53:3**, what is Isaiah telling us about the way the Messiah will be received?
 4. **Isaiah 53:4** is a contradiction. How was it possible that the Messiah would do so much for us and yet be so misunderstood?
 5. **Isaiah 53:5-6 (ESV): Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.**
Scripture tells us that man is composed of body, soul, and spirit. As you look at **vv. 5 & 6**, which of the things described seem to deal with the body? The soul? The spirit?
- II. Next read **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. What is Paul reminding the Corinthians of in this passage?
 2. Of everything Jesus did for us, what did Paul consider to be the most important?
 3. What two other facts about Jesus are almost equally important?
 4. How can we be sure that Jesus was raised from the dead?
 5. What kind of proof does Paul offer in this passage?
- III. Now **open your Bible to John 11** to find the answers to questions **1-5**. Then read **John 11:45-53**, utilizing several group members to each read one verse aloud. After reading the passage discuss it. If you are having trouble stimulating discussion, you can try asking some of the following questions:
1. From what you learned in the sermon, why did Pr. Dave say Jesus delayed in going to see Lazarus?
 2. How did Martha & Mary react to Jesus's delay?
 3. What amazing thing did Jesus do just minutes before He raised Lazarus from the dead?
 4. What did Pr. Dave say this displayed about Jesus?

5. Why was the raising of Lazarus from the dead more “dramatic” than the raising of the widow’s son in Nain or the raising of Jairus’s daughter?
6. Read **John 11:45-46**. The Jews, who had witnessed Lazarus being raised from the dead, had two different reactions. What were they?
7. Read **John 11:47-48**. What is it about Jesus that had the religious leaders so worried?
8. Are their concerns God-centered or self-centered?
9. Read **John 11:49-52**. What did Caiaphas prophesy before the religious leaders?
10. Do you think this convinced some of those, who were opposed to killing Jesus, to finally side with those who favored killing Him?
11. Read **John 11:53**. The religious leaders had thought about killing Jesus in the past. What has changed here?

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