



Risk: Beautiful Hot Mess | March 8, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Let's admit it: Life can be a beautiful hot mess. Contrary to popular belief, our faith asks us to sit in it, rather than run from it.

Key Verse

John 11:35 (NIV)

Jesus wept.

Discussion

Scars are fun to talk about after the fact. They tell a story of where we have been and how we have healed. Sharing scar stories in a group can also help people find common ground. We all face difficulty, and scars are a reminder of our humanity and our strength to overcome.

1. Share your favorite scar and the accompanying story.

Most scar stories are from long ago. Mostly because we become more and more risk averse as we age (or stop doing stupid things). The same is true of our faith. The longer we engage our faith the more risk averse we become. For many of us, faith means being clean, nice, and neat...insulated from difficulty and tragedy. If we have a problem, we turn to the Bible for the answer and go fix it. Many faith journeys have little room for imperfection and brokenness.

2. What is one thing in your life that you feel doesn't fit in the standard faith journey?

Jesus wept is a simple but powerful verse. Jesus felt the pain of his friends. He spent time with them in their brokenness. If you picture imperfection in our lives as someone sitting in the mud puddle, Jesus didn't ask Mary and Martha to get over it. He didn't fix it right away. He wept...he sat in the puddle for a minute. Jesus asks us to sit in the mud puddle before ever going to work on the brokenness.

3. What are some examples of mud puddles you or your friends have faced?
4. In what ways can you sit in the mud puddle with the people around you?

What's Next?

Glennon Doyle Melton says that we have become "naïve to tragedy." Harold Lindsell says, "The measure of our spiritual maturity is not the joy we get from worship. Rather, the measure of our spiritual maturity is the pain of our broken hearts over the needs of the people in our lives and the needs of this world."

Consider how you can share your mud puddle pain with friends and how you might be able to saddle up next to them in their tragedy. This is what Jesus has shown us regarding living out a life like him.