



Rooted: Deepest Ache | October 30, 2019

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Have you ever wondered what certain circumstances actually bring about transformation? Or thought about the deepest ache of your own life, and where God could meet you? Or maybe if God even wants to meet you there? Read below to hear more.

Key Verses

Luke 7:11-17 (NIV)

"Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, 'Don't cry.' Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, 'Young man, I say to you, get up!' The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. They were all filled with awe and praised God. 'A great prophet has appeared among us,' they said. 'God has come to help his people.' This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country."

Discussion

Many of us have either already done it, or have dreams or aspirations of adopting pets. We may even have a romantic story already written in our heads that describes how we are going to take them home. We rescue them from the cold outdoors, and all of the sudden they become a member of our family. In reality, the fulfillment of these stories is probably pretty few and far between. Dogs that are used to surviving on their own have a certain edge and confidence about them. They might even be wearing clothing or have "shelter" that they believe is safe and comforting. They are unaware of a better alternative to the way they've been living.

1. Do you have romantic dreams of adopting a pet? If so, explain.
2. Do you relate to the dog who's had to fend for himself for a while? How so?

Just like dogs, who mistakenly think that things like tattered clothing provide them security and warmth, a lot of us root our lives into things from our original homes or things we've gathered along the way that don't actually provide any security or comfort. We rely on them because they are all too familiar. We understand them. They are truths that we've bought into overtime. We don't even remember where they came from or how we encountered them. Many of us stuff down the dull ache in our heart that makes us question who we are or why we're here, and try to live lives that look good on the outside, when the reality is that we're having a really tough time.

3. What are some truths you think you've bought into overtime that don't address the deepest aches of your heart?
4. Why do you think we have a tendency to stuff these aches down and ignore them?

In Luke 7:11-17, Jesus interacts with a widow who has recently lost her only son. Because she's already lost her husband, her only son would have been her sense of comfort, security and safety. Jesus shows up in her moment of deep grief and tells her not to cry. His heart broke for her. Then he addresses the coffin in front of her and tells the young man to get up. He gets up, restored to full life in just an instant. The best news is that a man named Jesus came to Earth to address the ache of who we are and why we're here. Because he lived on Earth just like you and I, he understands what it's like to be us – to laugh, cry, celebrate, and grieve.

5. What do you think it would have been like to be part of the crowd in this story?
6. How do you think Jesus addresses the deepest aches of our heart – who we are and why we are here?

What's Next?

The truth is, if we find our safety and security apart from Jesus, eventually that thing will fail and fool us. Only Jesus can be all that we need. Only Jesus can address the ache of your existence. Just like his heart broke for the widow, it breaks for us too when we are caught in seasons of deep doubt and frustration. The Bible says the crowd around the widow was noisily grateful and quietly worshipful after the God of the Universe brought the young man back to life. What would it look like for us to be noisily grateful and quietly worshipful in the deepest aches of our lives?

This week, as you live out and engage your faith, consider how God might want to show up in the deepest aches of your life. How might you be noisily grateful and quietly worshipful in the midst of those aches? How might you live in a posture of holy mystery, where you give God credit for his power and abundance in new ways?