



Discussion Guide for “When God Fails Us”

Broken Promises Week 5

In our most honest moments, we recall times God has let us down. Prayers unanswered, illnesses unhealed, relationships not mended. We wonder, in those times, what the point of faith is. Why follow God if God does not (cannot?) keep us from harm, from grief. Jesus' approach to Lazarus' tomb reveals much about the God who does not leave us in our grief - even as we hope for something better.

Passage for Sacred Reading:

Sacred Reading is a way of reading Scripture with an eye toward transformation, not just information. Get a [step-by-step guide here](#). The passage for this week's sacred reading is John 11:1-44.

Questions for Discussion

1. Do you feel comfortable sharing a time you've been disappointed with God?
2. Ezekiel's vision was to those who lived through the Exile. Even though the Exiles believed the Exile was due to their lack of faithfulness, why might they have experienced disappointment with God?
3. How is Ezekiel's vision a breath of fresh air for the Exiles? (pun most fully intended)
4. Consider Mary and Martha. How were they feeling about Jesus when he arrived? Would you have reacted the way they did? What do you make of Jesus' response to each of them?
5. John calls Jesus' resurrection of Lazarus a 'sign'. What do you think this sign is meant to be pointing to?
6. What does hope look like for you during Lent?