

## **Into the Light: Lesson Four**

### **Lamenting Death**

**Opening Prayer, page 37**

#### **Introduction**

What is the difference between an obituary and a eulogy?

Have participants in your group bring examples of an obituary.

Have any of you given a eulogy? Tell about your experience.

Take a look at the painting on page 36. What do you see? (For help, the author gives an explanation 8.) What does the painting say to you?

Talk about any experiences in cemeteries. What images or words or structures are common or unique? How do people communicate their love for the deceased? If you have buried someone, how did you choose the location?

#### **Scripture Lesson**

Read our scripture lesson for today found on page 38: John 11:28-37.

What details jump out at you?

How did Mary express her faith in Jesus?

Keeping in mind the structure of a lament (see the top of page 39), in what ways is mourning different from lamenting?

Are the people in our scripture passage mourning or lamenting?

Why do you think Jesus would mourn and lament something he could change?

With the pandemic we are experiencing hundreds of thousands of death. We see the numbers up on the TV screen and our mind cannot comprehend. Our author says on page 39: "It is difficult enough to process the single deaths that come into our lives. How can we process and lament deaths that happen by the millions in this world?"

When Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead, Jesus demonstrates he has power over death. Our author says on page 41: "Death does not have the last word. This is a central message of our faith." She suggests a practice to help us remember on Sundays we celebrate the resurrection. Read this practice on page 41 (sidebar on the right). Respond to this practice in your group, or think of other ways to be reminded of the Resurrection.

**Practicing Lament** (page 40)

Our author gives an interesting exercise on writing a song of remembrance for someone in your life. Set it to a tune you know. Invite anyone who did this exercise to share it with the group.

**End with Prayer found on page 42**