

SUFFERING

LESSON 1: Death and Disaster

ANCHOR STATEMENT: God is powerful enough to overcome death and disaster. Although sin has caused great suffering, God brings great hope and healing.

MAIN PASSAGE: John 11:38-44

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW: Death and disaster are both inevitable parts of living in a world that has fallen. However, God promises to bring an end to both of these things, and to be with us in times of suffering.

WHAT WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO WITH WHAT THEY’VE LEARNED: Understand why death and disaster take place, and look for God in the midst of their suffering, leaning into the comfort He offers.