

December 16 – 22, 2007
Week 1 - John 11:1–44; 12:1-33

>Icebreaker: Two Truths & A Lie (10 minutes)

Have each class member call to mind 2 “hard to believe,” and/or little known true facts about themselves, plus make up a believable lie about themselves. Next, have a volunteer say their three statements. Group members can make one guess identifying the false statement. If they guess correctly, then they get a point.

> Prayer Chain (10 minutes)

With this prayer you will eventually have everyone in your group including you standing in a circle with your arms linked (you know like a barrel full of monkeys). Here are the instructions to get to this point:

1) Ask everyone to think of something for which they are thankful (family, friends, computer, God's love, etc.) and something/someone that needs prayer (sick relatives, help on a test coming up, or help for someone going through a divorce).

2) You stand up with your hands on your hips (elbows sticking out to the side) and say what you are thankful for and what you want to pray for.

*Mention that everyone will be standing up and giving thanks and praying for something, so everyone else should be quiet and pray with the person who stands up.

*Only one person should stand up at a time.

3) Once they have prayed, then they link elbows with you. The next person links either with them or on your other elbow.

4) Once everyone has prayed, then say that the connected circle that you have formed is an example of what prayer does for us. It connects us to each other and all praying people. I pray for you and you pray for me – we are connected. We are also connected, not only to the living, but also to dead relatives in heaven and the saints and angels who pray for us to finish the race and come home to heaven.

5) Tell them to stay connected. Ask for a volunteer to lift his/her feet off of the floor. Of course this involves the person to their right and left holding them up. After this happens, then ask another person to do the same. Lastly, ask both of the people to lift their legs at the same time.

6) Share that the point of the leg lifting is to show how we can support each other through prayer. Sometimes we will not have the strength to stand on our own and we will need to borrow strength from others to endure a difficult time. Other times we may be the one who lends strength to others by our prayer.

➤ **Review of Introduction to Scripture Study and John 11 - 21 (5 minutes)**

Ask: Who wrote the Bible and what is the purpose of the Scriptures? [Many people wrote the books of the Bible. Although many were inspired to write it, we believe that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate author.]

Ask: What does Gospel mean? [Explain that it means Good News. It refers to eye-witness accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus.]

Key concepts in John's Gospel

Jesus is God's WORD – he is both God and man

Jesus is God's personal representative – whom we should believe

Jesus calls us into a personal relationship

Jesus is a Jew – many believe in him, but most leaders do not

John speaks of glory as both honor and sacrificial, SAVING LOVE.

➤ **Scripture Study from My Peace I Give You – Week 1 (15 – 20 minutes)**

Go to page 14 and go through the Warm-Up Questions

Have students take turns reading the Scripture story of Lazarus on pages 15 & 16.

Go through the Questions for a Closer Look with the students

➤ **Game: Group Toss (5 – 10 minutes)**

Note: You will need a ball for this activity.

Have the group stand in a circle. Instruct the group to toss the ball to someone. The person who caught it must throw it to someone new. The person who throws the ball cannot throw it to someone who has had the ball before. Once the ball has been to each

of your group members, then challenge them to send the ball in the same patten as fast as they can. Each time they try it, encourage them to try again and go faster.

As a twist, you can ask the group to keep the first ball going around the group in the same patten without stopping, but then introduce a second ball. The challenge is to keep both ball going around the circle without slowing down or dropping either.

> **Scripture Study continued (20 minutes)**

Look at pages 18 & 19 and share a few important insights from A Guide to Reading. The insights I would share are as follows:

*John uses this amazing story of raising Lazarus from the dead to emphasize Jesus' true identity.

*By raising Lazarus Jesus shows God's life-giving power, which glorifies God. The religious leaders feel provoked by this miracle to get rid of Jesus, which leads to Jesus glorifying God through his death on the cross.

Go through the Question for Application on page 20.

> **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

Use the Approach to Prayer on page 21.

End