

Can You See It?

When Eyes Are Opened (April 4th, 2021)

PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). **Then make sure to watch our [Special Series Video](#)!**
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

DISCUSSION

Opening Prayer: (1-2 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of our heart to begin to see Jesus for who he truly is!

Discussion: (45-60 minutes)

What's Going on This Week

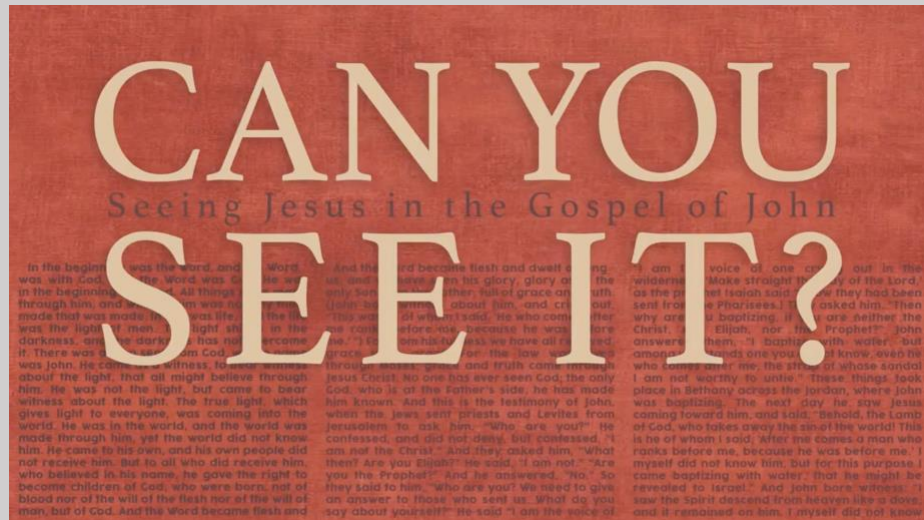
HAPPY EASTER! On this Easter Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into our sixth and final week of our series titled *Can You See It?* Pastor Danny brought our attention to the death of Lazarus in *John 11:1-44* to point out that death is an awful reality that we all face. In this text, he draws our attention to the reactions of Mary, Martha, and Jesus himself to show that death is often a painful “punch to our gut”, especially when it happens to someone we love. However, on this Easter Sunday, Pastor Danny directs us to the resurrection of Lazarus to show that Jesus has a plan to conquer death because he himself is the resurrection and the life!

“The Message of Easter is not merely ‘life after death.’ The message of Easter is ‘Resurrection life begins today!’” – Pastor Danny Strange

Suggested Questions

Check-In: Icebreaker – What is the most heroic act you have ever witnessed (real life, movie, play, etc.)?

Series Video: Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses this week's sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



Objective #1: Explore your current relationship with the reality of death.

Primary Texts: *John 11:1-44* – Pastor Danny opens his sermon by challenging us to face the reality of death. This point is particularly relevant considering the COVID season in which death has affected so many of our relationships. **What resonates with you the most as you explore the reactions of Mary, Martha, and Jesus as they react in real time to the death of Lazarus (someone they loved)?**

Objective #2: Identify the ways in which the events of Easter ought to change the way we approach life!

Selected Passages and Themes: *John 16:33; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, 50-58; John 20:1-18* – In the roundtable discussion video, each one of our ministry leaders discusses one of the main ways that the events of Easter should change our outlook on life and reality itself. **How have the events of Easter fundamentally changed the way you approach this life knowing that death has been conquered in Jesus Christ?**

Objective #3: Hold onto one encouragement as we approach the end of the Can You See It series!

Holy Spirit Texts: *John 17 – 21; John 20:31* Pastor Danny concludes his sermon by saying that resurrection life begins when you see and believe that Jesus is who He says He is. Danny writes, “*You may have come into this room in grave clothes. Jesus wants to release you. You may have come reeking of the stench of death. Jesus wants to purify you. God sees your pain. He feels it. He tasted death Himself – to conquer it. He rose on Easter Sunday and promises the same resurrection life to all who will believe.*” **What is one thing that you have taken away from this series that you would like to apply to your own life moving forward?**

Closing Prayer: (5-10 minutes)

In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing himself to us by sending His son! Praise the Son for becoming a human so that we might see the Father and have direct access to Him through the shed blood of Jesus Christ! Ask that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of our hearts so that we may continue to follow Jesus in a relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit as he equips us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we continue to stay connected to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead in our lives.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities: Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus). If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

-Can You See It! Series: Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our [YouTube channel!](#)

-Group Prayer: This week, pray that the Spirit would illuminate the truth of Jesus in our lives! Challenge one or two members of your group by contacting them with a truth about Jesus upon which you are reflecting!

-Further Reading: *Luke 17:1-10* – Our next series will center around forgiveness. Who do you need to reach out to and forgive in this tumultuous time?

-Community Groups 2021: For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at avanegas@3crosses.org