



**NOWTHEN
ALLIANCE
CHURCH**

STUDY GUIDE

For the sermon on March 22, 2020

Luke 7:11-17

REFLECT | REVIEW

Review and reflect on the Scriptures and important points of the sermon.

Before starting this study, take some time to pray again what we prayed together during the service.

Hands Up: Surrender

I choose to hold up my hands as a symbol of surrender. My life is not about me. I surrender to your Lordship. I surrender my preferences, my prejudices and my position to you; My fears, finances, friends and family to you.

Hands Out: Generous

I choose to hold out my hands as a symbol of generosity. What I have is not mine. I am only a steward of all that you have given me. I want to mirror the way that you opened your hand to us and lavished your love and life upon us. I want to live an open handed life in a closed fist culture.

Hands Forward: Mission

I choose to hold my hands forward as a symbol of mission. I want to live for something greater than me. I want to embrace your kingdom mission. I want to embrace and welcome your mission to the lost, last, least and lonely – the poor, powerless, privileged and persecuted.

ENGAGE | ENCOURAGE

Consider together what God is asking you to do and encourage each other.

As we begin a series focusing on how the resurrecting power of God is still at work today, take some time to think about what you would hope God restores. Is there anything in your spiritual life that needs new life? Your family? Work/school/daily life? Physically? Emotionally? Other relationships? Darkness or brokenness in your community? Have you prayed about these things (or confessed if that is necessary?)

Read Luke 7:11-13. This begins a story of the worst kind of grief in the ancient world. A widow loses her only son. (for further study, read: Jer. 6:26, Amos 8:28, Zech. 12:10). What would be the worst kind of grief you could imagine for you?

Read Luke 7:14-15. What would your response be if someone interrupted a funeral of your love one? What Bible laws made this even more severe? (see Numbers 19:11-22). What would the expected response of the bearers have been?

It's easy to see the literal usage of Jesus' words to "Get Up" in this story. How might those word's figuratively apply to you? What areas you identified as needing restoration might Jesus just proclaim as restored? What step of faith might he be asking you to take?

Read Luke 7:16-17. Translation differ between calling their emotion awe or fear. Why might those seem interchangeable to translators? Regardless, the step taken is one of praise for what Jesus has done. How might you praise him for works of restoration he has done in your life (like the gift of eternal life)?

How can you spread the news about Jesus and his restoring power to a world that is looking for hope?

LOOKING AHEAD

Currently we have an unknown timeframe for how long "social distancing" and other precautions will be put in place. It has created anxiety and fear in many. How might you as one of God's people have a lens of hope during this time? What does that look like personally? What would it look like to share hope with others? What does it look like to connect with others when many of the natural ways we do that are things we've been encouraged to avoid?