

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**A Matter of Life and Death**  
**April 12th, 2020**

***OPENING PRAYER***

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of life.

***SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES***

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

***"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"***

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

**Over the last month we have heard the term "essential" mentioned a lot in the news...essential businesses, essential travel, etc. How have you redefined the term "essential" in this season?**

***INTRODUCTION***

Happy Easter! In the midst of the chaos and the unknown in this world that we currently live in, we have a hope and a promise that matters. Easter matters, in fact it is ***A Matter of Life and Death!*** This is the title of our Easter message this week.

Our story comes from a very important and crucial interaction Jesus has with Martha, found in John 11:17-27. As we engage with the story, think about how your current situation is very much like Martha's.

### ***Bible Storytelling: John 11:17-27***

- Tell the Story: This week's story will be told by one of our group members.
- Examine the Story: Looking at John 11:17-27 in your Bible, what did the storyteller add or omit in their retelling?
- Read the story: Have someone in your group read the passage of scripture as everyone else follows along in their Bible.

### ***DISCUSSION:***

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- **In what ways do you see Martha's faith expressed in this conversation?**
- **What do you think her questions are, and why?**
- **Can you relate? How is your current situation like Martha's? How are your questions for Jesus like hers?**
- **How does Jesus change our thinking about the meaning of life?**
- **Talk with your group about your belief, and your struggles with belief. If you have not taken a specific step of belief - putting your faith and hope in Jesus - would you take that step right now? Your group can help.**

***CLOSING PRAYER***-Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.