



PROXE SCRIPT

1. Introduce yourself, state purpose, ask permission. Hi, I'm (your name) and we're with InterVarsity's Latino Christian Fellowship. We are exploring issues of Life and Death and themes from Dia De Los Muertos. We'd love to hear your thoughts, and give you a chance to vote on our panel.

2. Invite them to respond to the family mourning question. (Panel 1)
We usually experience loss together with other people. How does your family mourn?

There are many ways to handle a difficult loss. Please place a sticker on the ones you resonate with. (Panel 2)

(Ask some follow-up questions based on where they placed their sticker. Ex: "You chose "denial." My family does that too. For example..." What are some ways your family celebrates life?")

3. Transition from their story of mourning to the John story of mourning.

Thanks for sharing that about yourself and your family. We are InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. There are many stories in the Bible showing different ways families mourn. Can I share with you a quick story?

4. Summarize the Lazarus story. (Panel 3)

This story is about Martha who was mourning the recent death of her brother. Jesus showed up late, 4 days after Lazarus died. Martha wished Jesus was there earlier. In her mourning, she was questioning Jesus. She wondered if Jesus could have saved her brother from dying.

In her questioning, Jesus comforts and assures Martha that her brother will rise again.

Jesus, then responds by saying this: **"I am Resurrection and Life. Those who believe in me though they die will actually live."**

- What do you think Jesus means? Have you heard this story before? (What's your spiritual background?)
- What do you think happens when we die?

I think Jesus means that there is hope beyond this world, and this hope is found in him. Can I share with you more about God's story of hope and vida (life) that triumphs over death?

5. Share the gospel ●

6. Invite them to respond:

- Do you consider yourself a part of God's familia, someone who has experienced healing & loving relationship with Him? Would you like to be?
- What is an area of grief and death in your life that you would like for Jesus to transform? Can I pray right now about that with you?
- Who around you needs to be invited into God's familia to experience new life and healing? Would you be willing to invite them now?

Circle 1: Designed for Good

In the Christian perspective, God created the world to be perfect, without pain and death.

That meant that we would have perfect lives, perfect relationships with family, perfect relationship with God, and a world without death. No tears. No mourning. No loved ones lost!

We would have enjoyed every part of our lives as we trusted God and put Him in the center of our lives.

Circle 2: Damaged by Evil

But we often like to put ourselves at the center. Often our selfishness and self-reliance makes us hurt others, and as we look around us, we see the evil, decay, and death that results when humans put themselves at the center. Our world is full of war, racism, child abuse, suicide, drug addiction, and more. Every person has or will experience loss. And we all will have to face our own deaths.

By doing things our way instead of God's way, we caused and became prey to death, decay, and separation from others and from God himself. Grief touches each and every one of our lives.

(*Share from your own story, especially from your family experience).

Circle 4: Sent to Heal

As Jesus gives us hope in our areas of mourning, he also invites us to make a difference in our hurting world.

Jesus promises that one day, he will make all things new and that he will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Our broken and hurting world, our families and friends, need this hope and healing. He sends us out to heal, to serve, and to share about his Healing story of hope and life. We invite everyone into the familia of God and to share in this hope.

Jesus promises that as we lay down our lives for his sake, he will give us true life that satisfies now and lasts forever: life with purpose, love, joy, and depth.

Circle 3: Restored for Better

But God loves us too much to leave us to the consequences of our decisions and the pain and death that results. Jesus came to show us that he understands our pain, grief, and fear of death. But, in order for God to be back at the center of our lives, Jesus had to deal with our rebellion and betrayal, the things in us that cause harm to ourselves and others. Evil done to us often becomes evil done to others.

Instead of leaving us that way, Jesus entered into our mess, brokenness with family, and sin. Through his death and resurrection, he not only paid the penalty for our sin, but he faces down decay and death and proves that death is no longer final! He opens the door to transformation in our lives now and forever.

When we invite Jesus into our pain, grief, and experiences of death and make him the center of our lives, we trust him to give us life and life in the fullest.