

VIDA! PROXE - SMALL GROUP SERIES

Week One

Introduction

This SG series is designed to follow up the Vida! Proxe, and it could be used on its own. The themes of pain and loss are explored in the light of familia and the resurrection of Jesus.

Welcome & Hospitality (15 minutes - total)

It is important to help people feel welcomed and comfortable (5 minutes)

- Have everyone share a little about themselves (name, major, family heritage, etc)
- Share how you got invited to this gathering
- Provide a snack, if possible something from Latino culture
- Gather contact information

Connection Exercise - pick one (10 minutes)

"I'd love for us to spend a little more time getting to know each other"

- What is a smell/scent that reminds you of your home growing up?
- Provide a mix of Latino candies, each candy represents a different question, students answer according to the candy they take [Ask questions about family, upbringing, hopes, dreams, etc]
- Share about a favorite relative or family memory
- Make a list of 5 things of what it means to be familia and share.

Cast Vision (5 minutes)

"Thanks for joining us for this 3-week discussion. We will get to see how Jesus interacts with people around their pain and loss and how he gives them healing, hope, and new life. We hope that you will see Jesus' invitation to you of finding new life past the brokenness of our world."

As we look at this passage, I'd like you to think about the questions, thoughts, feelings you were having when someone was seriously ill. Or questions, thoughts, and feelings you have seen others have in a similar situation. Keep those in mind as we see Jesus interact with the bleeding woman and Jairus.

Scripture study (25 minutes)

Mark 5:21-43

21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. **22** Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. **23** He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." **24** So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. **25** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. **26** She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. **27** When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, **28** because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will

be healed.” **29** Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

31 “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’ ”

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. **33** Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. **34** He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

35 While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?”

36 Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

37 He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. **38** When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly.

39 He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.”

40 But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. **41** He took her by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha koum!*” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). **42** Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43** He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Questions to include in your study

- Describe the interaction between Jesus and the bleeding woman. Compare that interaction with the one between Jesus and Jairus.
- Compare the bleeding woman and Jairus’ daughter; especially how Jesus heals them. What do you think accounts for such a difference? What’s the effect of the public healing, and what is the effect of the private healing?
- What are the crowds in each situation thinking about the miracle they just witnessed? What are they thinking about Jesus?

Application/Active Response (15 minutes)

We have seen Jesus respond to grief in this passage. Given his responses to the woman and Jairus, how do you think he responds to you and/or your loved ones in your grief?

- Is there a grief where you want to invite Jesus to meet you? How would you like Jesus to interact with you in that place of grief? *Opportunity to move into a time of prayer for inner healing.*

Jesus is inviting all of us into his family, to experience healing and new life. Can I share with you how? *Share gospel summary (four circles, see below). Ask them where they are in the four circles. Ask what it would take for them to move into the next circle.*

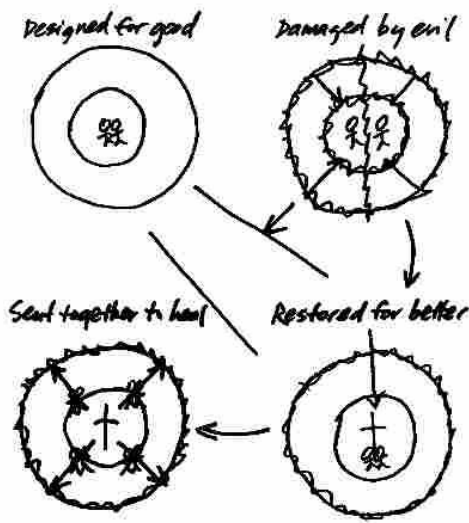
Stretch Assignment

Who in your life also needs this kind of healing from Jesus? family, friends, co-workers

- Share with your neighbor who came to mind and when you might be able to share this passage with them

- Pray for them this next week
- Write them a note or send a text

Let's text 2-5 people. Quick sentence about what you learned or experienced today and an invitation to join us next week.



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 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.

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.

Week Two

Introduction

This SG series is designed to follow up the Vida! Proxe, and it could be used on its own. The themes of pain and loss are explored in the light of familia and the resurrection of Jesus.

Welcome & Hospitality (15 minutes - total)

This is a practice you will want to include each week. It is okay to repeat some of these activities as people will only remember so much information from the first meeting and there might be new people.

- It is important to help people feel welcomed and comfortable (5 minutes)
 - Have everyone share a little about themselves (name, major, family heritage, etc)
 - Share how you got invited to this gathering
 - Provide a snack, if possible something from Latino culture
 - Gather contact information
- Connection Exercise - pick one (10 minutes)
 - "I'd love for us to spend a little more time getting to know each other"
 - What is a smell/scent that reminds you of your home growing up?
 - Provide a mix of Latino candies, each candy represents a different question, students answer according to the candy they take [Ask questions about family, upbringing, hopes, dreams, etc]
 - Share about a favorite relative or family memory
 - Make a list of 5 things of what it means to be familia and share.

Debrief from Last Week (5 minutes)

"Last week, we saw how Jesus cared for Jarius and the bleeding woman. That same care from Jesus is available to us and our family and friends.

- How did you continue to experience his care for you?
- What did you experience as you shared or prayed for people that need Jesus' healing?"

Cast Vision (5 minutes)

"Thanks for joining us for this 3-week discussion. We will get to see how Jesus interacts with people around their pain and loss and how he gives them healing, hope, and new life. We hope that you will see Jesus' invitation to you of finding new life past the brokenness of our world."

As we look at this passage, I'd like you to think about the questions, thoughts, feelings you were having when someone was seriously ill. Or questions, thoughts, and feelings you have seen others have in a similar situation. Keep those in mind as we see Jesus interact with the family in this story.

Scripture study (25 minutes)

John 11:1-43

Note to Leader: *John 11 is a long passage and we want you to be able to get to exploring and discussing the story within the time you have. Use discernment about whether you want to include the first 10 verses or if you want to summarize what happens leading up to verse 11.

Jesus has been teaching and healing people for some time now. Along the way, he became close friends with Lazarus and his two sisters Mary and Martha. His sisters have sent word to Jesus that Lazarus has fallen sick.

1 Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

9 Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. 10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." **13** Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

14 So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, **15** and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

16 Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18** Now Bethany was less than two miles[b] from Jerusalem, **19** and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20** When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22** But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26** and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27 "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

28 After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." **29** When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30** Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31** When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34** "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

35 Jesus wept.

36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.

39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42** I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Questions to include in your study

- What are the different reactions people in this story have in response to the loss of Lazarus?
- Why do you think Jesus got emotional despite knowing he was going to raise Lazarus? Why do you think the one claiming to be “the resurrection and the life” stops to weep?
- What do the disciples, Martha, and Mary seem to believe about Jesus, death, and life after death? What kind of impact do you think it would have had on them to see this miracle?
- If you saw this first-hand, how would it affect you? What would you believe about Jesus?

Application/Active Response (15 minutes)

We have seen Jesus respond to grief in this passage. Given his responses to Martha and Mary, how do you think he responds to you and/or your loved ones in your grief?

- Is there a grief where you want to invite Jesus to meet you? How would you like Jesus to interact with you in that place of grief? *Opportunity to move into a time of prayer for inner healing.*

Jesus is inviting all of us into his family, to experience healing and new life. Can I share with you how? *Share gospel summary (four circles, see below). Ask them where they are in the four circles. Ask what it would take for them to move into the next circle.*

Stretch Assignment

Who in your life needs to be invited into God’s family to experience new life and healing? family, friends, co-workers.

- Share with your neighbor who came to mind and plan when you might be able to share this passage with them.
- Pray for them this next week.
- Verbally invite two people this week to join us next week.

Let’s text 2-5 people. Quick sentence about what you learned or experienced today and an invitation to join us next week.

Week Three

Introduction

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- Connection Exercise - pick one (10 minutes)

"I'd love for us to spend a little more time getting to know each other"

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 - Share about a favorite relative or family memory
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Debrief from Last Week (5 minutes)

Last week, we saw how Jesus cared for Martha and Mary. That same care from Jesus is available to us and our family and friends.

- How did you continue to experience his care for you?
- What did you experience as you shared or prayed for people that need Jesus' healing?

Cast Vision (5 minutes)

"Thanks for joining us for this 3-week discussion. We will get to see how Jesus interacts with people around their pain and loss and how he gives them healing, hope, and new life. We hope that you will see Jesus' invitation to you of finding new life past the brokenness of our world.

As we look at this passage, I'd like you to think about the questions, thoughts, feelings you were having when someone had passed away. Or questions, thoughts, and feelings you have seen others have in a similar situation. Keep those in mind as we see Jesus interact with Mary Magdalene and the disciples in this story."

Scripture study (25 minutes)

John 20:1-31

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other

disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Questions to include in your study

- What are some of the responses people are having to the news of Jesus' resurrection in this passage? Which of these interactions resonates most with you? Why?
- Where do you see "belief" mentioned in this passage? What do the people do after they believe?
- What do you find challenging about belief in Jesus? What has helped along the way? Who in your life do you wish would believe in Jesus? How might belief help them?

Application/Active Response (15 minutes)

We have seen Jesus respond to grief in this passage. Given his responses to Mary Magdalene and the disciples, How do you think he responds to you and/or your loved ones in your grief?

- Is there a grief where you want to invite Jesus to meet you? How would you like Jesus to interact with you in that place of grief? *Opportunity to move into a time of prayer for inner healing.*

Jesus is inviting all of us into his family, to experience healing and new life. Can I share with you how? *Share gospel summary (four circles, see below). Ask them where they are in the four circles. Ask what it would take for the to move into the next circle.*

Stretch Assignment

Who on campus needs to know this Jesus? Who do you know on campus who might be interested in participating in a Bible study like this? Let's create a list together and pray for the people who come to mind.

Let's text 2-5 people. Quick sentence about what you learned or experienced today and an invitation to start a new Vida! small group next week.