



## Plant • Grow • Harvest | Home Group Discussion Guide

*"Terrible, Thanks for Asking: The Empty Seat"*

*John 11: 33-35*

*September 8, 2019 – Susan Kent*

### Gather

- Welcome to our first Harvest Home Group for the fall. Let's quickly touch base with each other by answering this question: What does a "good" day look like for you?

### Plant

- We're in a series called Terrible, Thanks for Asking which really says "it's ok to not be ok" all the time. When you have a "terrible" day or week, who is the person (or people) you feel comfortable going to and you know you can be real with them?
- Read **James 4:14**. How does it affect the way you view life when it is described as "a mist" in the Bible?

### Grow

- Read **John 11:17-20** By the end of the story we learn that Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, but in these verses the sisters have been grieving for their brother for four days and do not know how it will end. Have you ever experienced an "unanswered" prayer and wondered where God was? How did you handle that situation?
- What comfort can we get when we read the words of **Deuteronomy 31:6** "Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." How does that help you? Or does it?
- Have you had a great loss in your life and know what it feels like to look at an empty seat? What do you think it means to experience the "peace that passes understanding" in the midst of that loss?

### Harvest

- We know that God gives us community as comfort when we are suffering. How have you received comfort from others during a time when life was hard?
- Is there anyone in your group or in your community that could use your presence in their life right now to help them through a tough time? If so, make a plan to reach out to them this week.

### Prayers

- Since prayer is so important, as part of our Harvest Home Group we are going to commit to pray for one another. What is something that is on your mind or heart today that our group can pray for on your behalf?