



The Lazarus Life: My Journey of Transformation

A Study Guide for Individual & Small Group Discussion of the Book and Sermon Series

Chapter Three

(Week 3 - January 18)

TRAPPED IN THE TOMB:

When Life Comes to a Dead End

Key Concepts

- ✚ The tombs of our lives—the dark places of failure and pain—are where transformation begins.
- ✚ People often fail to recognize the reality of tombs.
- ✚ Entering our own tombs helps us face our need for God.
- ✚ God uses the tombs of our lives to reveal His true identity.

Individual or Group Questions

1. The author describes how the missionary Amy Carmichael wrote the book, *Things as They Are*, exposing the difficulties of missionary work. In contrast, why might Christians feel reluctant to truthfully describe their lives? *For Amy's story, see page 52.*
2. What are the varying viewpoints that Christians express about suffering? What could be the outcome for each of these attitudes?
3. On page 57 the author writes: "The beginning work of transformation does not begin with us. It begins with God." How do you feel about these statements? What questions do these statements raise for you?
4. According to the author, what is spiritual paradox? *See pages 59-60 for the discussion of spiritual paradox.*
5. What is one spiritual paradox in your life right now? (For example, "I'm fulfilling God's purpose for my life, but the amount of work discourages me." Or, "I'm suffering from a chronic illness, but it draws me closer to my spouse.") How does this paradox affect you and/or your relationships?
6. Think of a "tomb" in your life. As God transforms you, how could it become a spiritual asset? *Consult page 63 for the author's insight to tombs as spiritual assets*
7. Do you feel the presence of Jesus when you're in life's darkness? If not, how could you begin to recognize his presence?
8. The author concludes Chapter Three with these encouraging words: "The truth is, you do not belong in the tomb. Every tomb of life is too small for you." Why are tombs too small for Christ's followers? Specifically, why is your tomb too small for you?