

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

All The Earth Will Sing Your Praises, This I Believe, Victor's Crown, Halleluah You Have Won It

WELCOME

I Live For. What is the most important thing in your life by which you are living for? Briefly share.

WORD

1 CORINTHIANS 15:3–4

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Resurrection Sunday is the most important event to the history of Christianity. Without the resurrection, Christianity is nothing.

Jesus claims to be the Son of God. He proved this claim to be true when He died and rose from the grave. It is this proof that makes Christianity unique among other religions.

Jesus constantly taught His disciples about His resurrection (**Mark 9:31–32**). It proved not only that He is the Son of God (**John 10:33**) but also that He is:

1. Able to forgive sins (**Luke 5:20–21**)
2. Able to give everlasting life (**John 11:25–26**)
3. The only way to God (**John 14:6**)

JESUS IS ALIVE

The resurrection is a historical event; it is where we should anchor our faith.

In the Philippines, majority of the Filipinos believe in the resurrection. The annual observation of 'Holy Week' gives us the opportunity to reflect on why we believe what we believe. However, surveys show that while many people believe in the resurrection, neither do they go to church nor are their lives changed.

It is possible that what most people have is merely religion instead of a relationship with Jesus. This means that one only believes with the mind but not with the heart. Thus, there is no real life change that happens. Because they do not truly know who Jesus is, they easily give up when challenges come.

In the end, the change that happens in our lives is the evidence of a personal encounter with the living Savior.

Every time we doubt God, we can always go back to the historical event of the resurrection and upon it, anchor our faith. This is why we need to understand its importance, why it is foundational, and how the evidence that Jesus died and rose again is compelling. Sir Lionel Luckhoo, the world's "most successful lawyer" according to the Guinness Book of World Records with 245 consecutive murder case acquittals, was challenged to disprove the resurrection of Jesus. At the end of his study, this was his conclusion:

"I say unequivocally that the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so overwhelming that it compels acceptance by proof which leaves absolutely no room for doubt."

LIVE FOR JESUS

When Jesus was arrested, tortured and eventually crucified on the cross, the disciples ran away and hid themselves. They were so discouraged. A clear indication that they did not fully understand why Jesus had to die.

But upon witnessing His resurrection and being in His presence being right before them, they had a change of heart. They became so bold with their faith that they were even willing to suffer and die in Jesus' name. Thomas died in India with pine spears; Peter was crucified upside down in Rome, while Andrew on an X-shaped cross in Greece; James was beheaded in Jerusalem and Paul in Rome; and even Matthew was killed by a sword in Ethiopia.

People are willing to die if they are convinced that their beliefs are true. However, they won't die for something they are unsure of, devoid of any deep conviction. Nobody will knowingly die for a lie. The disciples of Jesus would not die for their beliefs if

WORD (cont'd)

they knew deep inside that what they believed was simply untrue.

By believing that Jesus is the Messiah, that He died for our sins and rose again, we are assured of salvation (**Romans 1:3-4**) and power (**Ephesians 1:19-20**). Jesus' resurrection will impact our lives with a new perspective that there is life after death; there is forgiveness (**1 Corinthians 15:17-18**) and there is in Him the power to live a holy life. The resurrection proves to us that the power of God can work in our lives. It is crucial that we understand that God can change a person's life.

But we will not experience the fullness of life until we live for Jesus. If we are not living for Jesus, our life is centered either on ourselves or on something else.

All of us live for something. Whatever we think is the most important thing in life, we are living for it. It

could be money, family, career, relationships, etc. If Jesus died and rose again so that we may live, shouldn't this be the most important thing in our lives? Accordingly, should we not live for Him?

"and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf." — 2 Corinthians 5:15

A personal relationship with Jesus will remarkably change our life. When we live for Him, we are secure, generous, joyful and at peace. To live for Jesus is to be thinking of Him as soon as we wake up in the morning; seeking what He wants us to do which is to obey, glorify and honor Him day by day. It means that we love Him in a way that our life is centered on Him and that in everything we do, we do it for His glory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Jesus is Alive.** What was Paul referring to as first importance according to 1 Corinthians 15:3-7?
- 2. Empty Tomb.** What is the significance of the empty tomb to you? Why?
- 3. Die to Live.** Are you willing to die for your faith in Jesus? What are the ways by which you can live for Jesus?

WORKS

PROOF OF FAITH

Read through the following verses and take some moments of personal reflection about the evidences that Jesus is alive.

- 1. Empty Tomb (John 20:1-2)** – No tomb can hold Jesus. Jesus could pass through the stone, but why does it have to be opened? Who rolled the stone?
- 2. Linen wrappings lying (John 20:4-5)** – Why are the linen wrappings lying there?
- 3. Face cloth (John 20:6-7)** – Why is the face cloth still rolled up by its place?
- 4. Eyewitnesses Account (John 20:19-28)** – When, where and how did the risen Jesus appear to His disciples?

Cite ways on how you can share the gospel to others using these evidences of the resurrection.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends