

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

No Other Name Like Jesus, Jesus, With All I Am, Hosanna

## WELCOME

**Oh Why.** Briefly share your greatest disappointment.

## WORD

### JOHN 11:1-45

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> And it was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. <sup>3</sup> The sisters therefore sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

<sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

<sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

All of us have expectations. When we expect something and it does not happen, we get disappointed. Disappointments will always happen and are often outside our control, but how it affects us depends on how we respond to them.

In the face of disappointments and when our life seems to be at a dead end, what must we do?

**Proverbs 3:5-6** says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

The reason why we can trust God is not because we love Him, but because He loves us. Our security is in Him. Jesus loved Lazarus, Mary and Martha (**v.5**), yet He let Lazarus die of his sickness. However, Jesus said that Lazarus' sickness was not unto death but that God may be glorified (**v.4**). Oftentimes when we have problems, our default reaction is to complain to God. We fail to realize that our problem may eventually result to the fulfillment of God's glory.

Jesus is our Lord. Therefore, when we face trials and tribulations, our attitude must be with great joy because we can trust that God has a reason behind them (**James 1:2-4; Romans 5:1, 3-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7**).

The Bible says that God is not after our comfort but our character and sometimes the only way to transform our character is to allow us to go through problems. God's love is perfecting, and not

pampering. When trials come, it is a test of our faith. There is a redemptive purpose when it comes to our pain and suffering.

### JESUS IS THE LORD OF LIFE

Jesus knew that Lazarus was sick to the point of death, but He stayed for two more days where He was. And so he died before Jesus could arrive to visit him (**vv.6-7, 11**). Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary, told Jesus that if only He had been there earlier, Lazarus would not have died (**v.20-21, 32**). Although, the truth is, Jesus could have healed Lazarus long distance if He wanted to.

Oftentimes when we have problems, we expect God to do something about it at once. But when our expectations are not met, we get disappointed. This is why we often feel hopeless and is the common reason why we give up.

In this story, Jesus wants us to learn something; that He is the Lord of life. For many of us, it seems too late. But for Jesus, His timing is always perfect. He is seldom early but never too late. Many times we do not know what God is doing, but we have to trust Him. For His thoughts are not our thoughts and His ways are higher than our ways (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). He is sovereign so we need to be patient and trust in His timing.

The reality is if Jesus cannot do anything about death, then whatever else He can do is pointless. But the good news is that Jesus died and rose again from

## WORD (cont'd)

the dead. Death is nothing to Him for He has conquered it (**v.25-27**). He proved beyond any doubt that He is the Lord of life and He can give life, even eternal life. Because we are trusting a Savior who has abolished death, then we have nothing to fear (**2 Timothy 1:10**).

### TRUST HIM

So, why did Jesus instruct Martha to remove the stone (**v.39**)? Trust is evidenced by action. To trust Jesus, we must obey what He asks us to do. The evidence of faith is obedience. When we believe and obey, we will see the glory of God (**v.40**).

When they moved the stone, Jesus shouted, "Lazarus, come forth"; Lazarus rose from the dead and came forth from the tomb (**vv.43-44**). When they believed

and obeyed what Jesus said to move the stone, they saw the miracle.

God will not usually do for us, what we can do for ourselves. God can do the impossible, but many times He will not do the possible because He wants us to do our part. He wants us to demonstrate our faith. We will not be able to see miracles in our lives until we move the stones (hindrances, disappointments) in our lives.

Classical Greek thought of faith as a kind of mental belief but for the writers of the New Testament, 'faith' means 'entrusting' yourself fully to Jesus. Do you believe that Jesus is the Lord of life? Do not just believe that He exists but believe by entrusting your entire life in Him.

Jesus is the Lord of life; trust Him.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

- 1. We Are Family.** Who are the main characters mentioned in **John 11:1-4**? What is their relationship with Jesus?
- 2. Divine Disappointments.** How do you see your disappointments in the past at hindsight? What have you learned?
- 3. Trust and Obey.** What is God calling you to do today as a proof of your trust and obedience in Him? How will you respond?

## WORKS

### A REASON FOR EVERYTHING

Disappointments in life are a certainty. Because this amazing truth is necessary. God is good, but sometimes we need disappointments, trials and problems for us to grow. Christians are unique, not because we don't have problems, but because in the midst of problems, we respond differently.

What disappointments, trials and problems have you recently experienced? List them down, how you responded and what you have learned from your experience/s.

### 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