

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Oh, Happy Day! This I Believe, No Other Name, What a Beautiful Name

WELCOME

Truth Shared. What one truth have you believed and eagerly shared to others?

WORD

JOHN 20 AND 21

³¹ *but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.*

Everything in the Word of God points to the living Word, who is Jesus Himself. The gospel of John clearly states the purpose for why this gospel was written.

Jesus' birth, death and resurrection are parts of one complete story. We have no reason in celebrating Christmas unless we believe that He rose from the dead. The resurrection completes the picture of Jesus' mission on earth.

JESUS IS ALIVE!

The best decision we can ever make as Christians is to believe with all of our heart that Jesus is the Christ. To believe here means to put the full weight of our faith that Jesus died to pay for the penalty of our sins and that He rose from the dead. Because we believe in Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior and in His resurrection, He is alive in us and we have new life in Him. There is so much at stake on this truth. Here are some reasons why we believe in the resurrection of Jesus:

1. The Stone and the Empty Tomb

The empty tomb of Jesus is the central evidence that Jesus is alive. Historically, neither the Romans nor the Jews denied that the tomb was found empty. In fact, they conspired to say that the disciples stole the body of Jesus (**Matthew 28:13-15**). But this does not make sense.

First of all, the last thing that the disciples would do is to go to the tomb and steal Jesus' body. This would have put their lives at stake as the tomb had a Roman seal and breaking it would mean the death penalty.

Also, the tomb weighed about two tons. Moving it would create a loud noise that would call the attention of the Roman guards who could immediately arrest anyone caught trying to steal Jesus' body.

The Bible tells us that an angel rolled away the stone (**Matthew 28:2**) not because Jesus could not do it but because it was for the world to see that the tomb was empty and that Jesus is alive.

2. The Linen Wrappings

In **John 19**, linen wrappings were tightly bounded around the corpse of Jesus with about 100 pounds of myrrh and aloe. However, when Mary Magdalene came to the tomb few days later, it was found empty with the grave clothes neatly folded behind inside the tomb. If people came to steal the body of Jesus, it is illogical for them to fold the linens neatly behind.

3. The Women's Testimonies

In first century Jewish culture, the testimony of women was close to being worthless for legal purposes in court. The court does not accept them. Knowing that Mary Magdalene's testimony will not hold up, the last thing gospel writers would do is to use her testimony as the first to discover about the resurrection.

4. The Absurdity of Opposing Theories

One opposing theory is that the resurrection of Jesus was a spiritual resurrection and not a bodily resurrection. In other words, what people saw was just a spirit, not a body. But this theory would not explain why the tomb was empty.

WORD (cont'd)

Some said the disciples were only hallucinating, but most psychiatrists would say that mass hallucination is not possible.

Another opposing theory was that Jesus did not actually die but rather only fainted due to His loss of blood, pain and suffering. However, in the Roman culture, the ultimate goal of crucifixion was not suffering nor shame but death. Thus, Roman guards made sure the crucified person is dead. Assuming Jesus was not dead, it is unimaginable how a weakened Jesus, wrapped tightly with 100 pounds of spices, having no food, no water nor much air inside the tomb for 3 days, could singlehandedly release Himself, roll the two-ton stone to get out of the tomb, and overpower the guards outside the tomb.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

- 1. Main Purpose.** What is the purpose of the book of John according to **John 20:31**?
- 2. The Resurrection.** How important is the resurrection? What does the resurrection personally mean to you?
- 3. Our Mission.** Jesus is putting us on a mission to tell others about His resurrection. What do you intend to do to accomplish this?

WORKS

FISHERS AND SHEPHERDS

We are called to be fishers of people and be earthly shepherds. We are tasked to cast the net of the gospel to people and guide them to grow in Christ-likeness so that they can likewise be fishers of people and tend the sheep of Jesus.

List down the names of the people who you intend to share the gospel to and lead towards a growing relationship with Jesus.

BELIEVE AND TELL OTHERS

There is only one inevitable conclusion—Jesus is alive and it requires a response from us: to believe and tell others about it. Because Jesus is alive, we can be sure that He is with us and is personally meeting us. Jesus gave Mary an immediate assignment to tell others about her encounter (**John 20:17–18**). The disciples have seen the resurrected Jesus, they believed and they told the others about Him.

If Christ is not risen, then our faith is in vain; if there is no assurance of being with Jesus forever, then we are to be most pitied (**1 Corinthians 15:13–19**). Believing that Jesus is alive gives us the guarantee of eternal life. If we truly believe this, we should be driven to tell others about it.

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