

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

This is Amazing Grace, All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, Victor's Crown

WELCOME

Risen. What is the significance of Jesus Christ's resurrection to your life?

WORD

MATTHEW 28:18–20

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

JESUS IS RISEN

The resurrection of Jesus is the most important event for Christianity. If Jesus had not risen then we can all forget Christianity for He is just like any other religious leader. But if Jesus did rise from the dead, then we must believe and follow everything He said.

Everything about Jesus is unique. He was born by a virgin. His teachings have the highest moral ethics. Most importantly, He claimed to be the Son of God (**John 10:30**). Jesus was neither convicted to die for His miraculous birth nor for His teachings, but for His claims (**v. 32–33**). His enemies did not convict him for his action but for His confession. This is why the resurrection is critical.

The first of the eyewitnesses to the empty tomb were the women who came to the grave on Sunday morning (**Matthew 28:1**). The angel of the Lord had moved the stone at the grave and told them to come and see the empty tomb. Then the angel instructed them to go and tell His disciples that Jesus has risen (**v. 5–7**). The women left quickly with fear and great joy and reported everything to the disciples of Jesus (**v. 8**). Like these women, our calling is to come and see the truth, then to go and tell others that Jesus is risen. For this, we have reasons to rejoice! Consider the following:

PARDON (MATTHEW 28:11–18)

We should rejoice because our sins have been forgiven. According to psychologists, most people are troubled because of guilty feelings. Guilt affects relationships. It causes anxiety and fear. It makes one irritable, defensive, offensive, or judgmental. Guilty feelings are a real problem. We can debate with our mind to avoid guilt; however, we cannot do so with

our conscience for we know that deep inside something is not right.

If Jesus is our Lord, we do not need to feel guilty because our sins have been pardoned (**1 Corinthians 15:7**). He died on the cross for our sins and He rose again for our justification, to declare us not guilty. The resurrection is the proof that the payment for our sins is complete and satisfactory; it is as if we have never sinned. If we are pardoned for our sins, then we have reason to rejoice! But some would still doubt and not believe (**Matthew 28:18**). If the heart is not right, no amount of proof will make one believe and rejoice (**v. 11–15**).

POWER (MATTHEW 28:18)

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. He commanded the wind to stop, the sea to be still, the blind to see, deaf to hear, and the dead to come back to life.

If you believe that Jesus has all authority, would you worry? If you are praying for something and waiting for the answer, then just be still. If it is God's will, it will come, for nobody can go against the will of God. If it is not God's will, we should believe that He knows best. Search your heart to see if there is anything hindering your prayers from being answered. However, do not act as though you are in control. Keep in mind that it is Jesus who possess all authority.

PURPOSE

*The three most important days of our life is the day we were born, the day we were born again, and the day we know the purpose why we were born again.
(inspired by Mark Twain's quote)*

WORD (cont'd)

Until we have the answer to why God gave us the privilege to be born again, life will be meaningless. If we do not know our purpose, we will not understand suffering and pain, which God allows to test and to mold our character into Christlikeness (**James 1:2–4**).

We find our purpose and mission from our Creator. That mission is to make disciples of all nations (**v.19**). To make disciples is to be Christ-like. Are you investing your life to make others come to know Jesus and be Christ-like? At the end of our life, we will leave everything behind. Only a few will matter and will last in light of eternity.

PRESENCE

The very presence of Jesus gives us a reason why we can rejoice. In His presence there is fullness of joy and pleasures forever more (**Psalms 16:11**). When you feel

lonely and sad, practice the presence of Jesus. He is with us and will never leave us. We are always joyful because the Lord is ever present with us.

PROMISE

God has an amazing promise to be with us to the end of the ages (**Matthew 28:20**). We have reason to rejoice because of the reality that Jesus will come again, that there is life after death, and everything will be made new. God promised us that all will be changed, in a twinkling of an eye, the dead will rise with incorruptible body (**1 Corinthians 15:55–57**). God has something better for everything that we have been waiting for; no more death, pains and suffering. God promised us that our future is amazingly beautiful and unbelievably wonderful.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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

1. **Great Commission.** What is the great commission according to **Matthew 28:18–20**? What does it mean to you?
2. **Rejoice, Jesus is Risen.** What is the impact of the empty tomb to your life as a follower of Jesus?
3. **Show and Tell.** How does your life show the good news that Jesus is risen? How do you tell others about it?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

List down your top 3 learnings from today's discussion on "Jesus is Risen: Rejoice!"

Share your learnings with a friend this week and follow up with an invitation to join your group discussion on Life Goals using the materials available at <http://lifegoals.ccf.org.ph/>

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