

Victoria Fellowship Church

International & Interdenominational

Bible Study Worksheet – April 12, 2020

Main Text: Matthew 28:1-10

Theme: Nehemiah: A Vessel of Restoration **Topic:** He is Risen

Key verse: Matthew 28:6 – *'He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay' (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION: Today, Christians all over the world celebrate the resurrection of Christ our Saviour. Jesus suffered, was crucified, died, was buried and resurrected on the third day. Jesus' death and resurrection are not some Jewish myth, but historical facts. This single incident in history has become the pivot of both human existence and history (the BC and AD calendar). Prophecies of Christ's birth, death and resurrection litter the Old Testament – The Law, Psalms and the Prophets. Even the manner of His death was prophesied. Jesus Himself spoke about His betrayal, death and resurrection. After His death and burial, on Sunday morning, at the break of the dawn, two of His disciples (Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James (Mark 16:1; Lk 24:10) went to anoint his body in the tomb, but they met an empty tomb, because The Saviour is Risen!

1. (a) The angel told the women, "***Do not be afraid, ... He is not here; for He is risen, as He said...***" (Matthew 28:5-6). Let participants discuss what could have caused the women to fear and how the news of Christ's resurrection would calm their fear. (b) The angel also told them, "***... come see where He Lay***". Why was seeing the evidence of the empty tomb important to them, to the other disciples and to the gospel of Jesus? (See also: Lk 24:9 – 12; John 20:6 – 8; 1 John 1:1 – 3)

In 1 Corinthians 2:8b, Apostle Paul wrote concerning the death and resurrection of Christ, "*...for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*" The religious leaders, the kingdom of darkness and the political leaders, thought that killing Him would bring an end to Him and His ministry. Those devout women who went to the tomb that first Easter morning were still afraid even after the angel had spoken to them. They still couldn't comprehend all that they had heard and seen. So, Jesus Himself meets them with these words, '*... "Rejoice!" ... Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren ...*' (Matthew 28:9-10). The death and resurrection of the Christ is a 'bone' many are unable or find hard to swallow. Even for His own followers then, His death on the cross must have dealt a heavy blow to their expectations and aspirations. Possibly, some of those who were saying, 'let Him come down from the cross and we will believe Him' may have said so genuinely. If HE had come down from the cross as they expected, that would have been to them, the ultimate proof of Him being the Messiah. But HE came down from the cross, albeit not as they expected. This ignorance about God's plan for salvation continues to baffle millions today

2. (a) Let participants read Romans 6:8-11; 10:9; 1 Peter 1:3-4; trace some of the ways Jesus' resurrection underpins our faith (b) How would a poor understanding of the importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection affect someone's belief in God's saving grace?

One recurring theme in the announcement of the resurrection of the Christ is 'do not be afraid... rejoice... go and tell...' (Matthew 28:5, 7, 9,10 & 19). So, the message, 'HE is Risen' is to do something for us, to us and through us to others. Jesus resurrection is so crucial that the apostles made it the theme of their ministry (Acts 1:22; 4:33)

3. (a) What are some other practical implications of Jesus' resurrection for the believer? E.g. Romans 4:25; 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (b) Matthew 28:6-7, 10, 18-20 outline some obligations of sharing in the knowledge and blessings of His resurrection. What are some of these obligations and how can we better discharge them?

Prayer: *Father, thank you for the sacrifice of your Son, who died and rose and gave me victory. May I daily walk in this victory and live to make this known to all, in Jesus name, Amen.*