

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – March 31, 2024

Theme: The Foundation of the Christian Faith Topic: The Significance of Christ's Resurrection

Main Text: 1Corinthians15:12-20; John11:25-27

Key verse: John11:25 (NKJV) "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

INTRODUCTION: The word "resurrection" in the Bible means to bring back to life. It is the core of the Christian faith and refers to the truth that Jesus Christ rose from the dead three days after his crucifixion. The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith, as it demonstrates his power over death and sin. In the Bible, the resurrection of Jesus is the key to eternal life, and those who believe in Him will also be resurrected and given eternal life. Significantly, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was widely foretold in the Old Testament, and is intertwined with events in the New Testament, to establish God's plan for man's salvation through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. In Jn20:9 it says, "For as yet they did not know (understand) the statement of Scripture that He must rise again from the dead." For many at the time this was an excuse; today it is no longer so.

Read: Mt28:11-15 a) Recount what the Jewish leaders thought and connived amongst themselves when they heard of Jesus' resurrection. Would the same occur today at the world's most significant event? Why? b) Mk16:12-13 Place yourselves in the events of the day; why was disbelief widespread? c) In verses 14-18, Jesus begins to declare the significance of His resurrection. Identify for the moment as many as you can from His words.

The significance of Christ's resurrection for the believer, is a new life (2Cor5:17 – "Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come!" This life is completely different from those who don't believe. Christ's resurrection from the dead validates and substantiates the Christian faith in Jesus' resurrection.

Read: Ps16:10, Acts13:35 a) In these scriptures from both the OT and NT, what was Christ's certain assurance from the Father concerning His impending death? Hos 6:2-3, Is26:19 b) Again, in the OT, what did the prophets Hosea and Isaiah confirm regarding the resurrection of Christ? c) Furthermore, what do these scriptures confirm to the believer that have been destroyed by the resurrection of Christ?

The dead in Christ before His resurrection could not rise. At Christ's death, witnesses confirmed there was an earthquake, releasing the dead AFTER His resurrection. Death is nothing but the ticket to eternity for those who believe! Jesus' resurrection demands a life that is committed to Him. The power of His resurrection is a life transforming power, a quickening, to please God, no longer burdensome. This is the difference between Christianity and all other religions...an empty tomb is witness; Christ did not see the corruption of the grave, and He gave His children the power to cast off the fear of death, the grave, and the flesh (overcoming lives of sinfulness).

Read: Jn 11:25-27 a) In these verses, Jesus was revealing awesome truth to Martha, even though she did not realise it at the time. What was it? 1Cor15:12-20 b) What does this passage tell today's "Christian" who has doubts about Christ's resurrection and its power, as some did in the church at Corinth? 2Cor5:16, 20 c) Because we believe, we are seen in a different role. What is this role? How has Christ's resurrection accomplished this?

Prayer: *May we keep our eyes fixed on You, may we realise the power of Your resurrection in our lives and the fellowship of Your suffering. Regardless of circumstances, doubts, friends, enemies, pain or pleasure, help us cast off what hinders us as we run the race You have set for us. Give us strength in the running. Amen*