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PRAYER

Father, we thank you for your son, Jesus, and because he lives and has risen, we, too, find an eternal new life. Thank you for the life we get to have in you: a life of abundance! In Jesus' name, Amen!

WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Apart from Jesus, name someone in history that you don't know personally that has influenced your life and describe how your life would be different if they had not lived.

NOTES

WORD

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

[1 Corinthians 15:12-19](#)

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

[1 Corinthians 15:50-55](#)

Paul the Apostle emphasises not only the fact that without the resurrection of Jesus, our faith is void of purpose, but also with the resurrection, we find meaning in our faith, we are promised to live forever with God, and death cannot hold us.

GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1 to 10 (1 = never, 10 = always), how do you rate your ability to see what God is doing in all situations? Why do you rate your ability this way?

2. Paul writes about our faith being futile if not for the resurrection. Why do you think this is?
3. Jesus has to be either raised from the dead as Lord or he was a raving lunatic or liar to claim that he would rise from the dead (which would make no sense because of the way he and his disciples were painfully killed). What do you believe, and how does this affect the way you live your life?
4. Christians are to be pitied the most if God did not raise Jesus from the dead. Why do you think this is? How do you think we should live differently in our everyday lives if we are to live “non-pitiful” lives?
5. Death has no sting or victory because Christ has been raised from the dead. Why do you think then that some people battle a fear of death?

PRAYER LIST