

WORSHIP HELPS

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE JOHN 11:25-26

This can be done individually or in a group setting:

Q: How are you feeling physically, spiritually, and emotionally by completing a sentence that begins "I am"

Opening prayer:

God of life and renewed life, you know that at times we feel used up by our daily struggles. We ask you to lift from us the burdens that keep us from loving you and others as fully as you call us to.

We pray for your life to flow into all the situations and people we are concerned about, knowing that this is your will for us, this day and every day. In the name of Jesus, who is our resurrection and our life, today and eternally. Amen.

READ JOHN 11:17-26

1. Have you ever said to God something like Martha's words to Jesus, "If only you had been here, this would not have happened"? What was the situation? How did that event affect your faith?
2. What would you say to someone who believes that faith in God should guarantee that God will keep bad circumstances from happening to us?
3. Faith sometimes asks us to do things that don't make sense. When has your faith caused you to do or say something that a nonbeliever might find hard to understand?
4. Hope is the essence of Christian faith. Do you agree? Why or why not? If not, what one word expresses the essence of faith for you?

Practice: Lectio Divina

Lectio divina is a Latin phrase that means simply "holy reading." Since early times, before printed Bibles were widely available, believers have listened for guidance from God as they heard scripture and Christian writings being read aloud. The practice has four steps: listening for a word or phrase that "stands out" for you or gets your attention in some way, reflecting on how the word or phrase connects to your life right, receiving a personal invitation from God as you consider that connection, and praying about what you heard.

Let's look at the bible passage again: **John 11:17-26**

If you are on your own perhaps you can use a bible app on your computer or device to read it to you, or if you are in a group perhaps someone can read it out loud.

- Read aloud twice, more slowly the second time
- Reflect on a word or phrase that stands out.
- Write down or underline that word or phrase.
- Read the passage again.
- Think about how this passage connects to your life right now, personally and specifically.
- Write about the connection you sensed.
- Reflect on what invitation you heard from God in this connection.
- Write about the invitation God extended to you as you listened or read.
- If you are in a group perhaps you all might want to share what you found.

Then pray, "O God, we ask you for courage and power to act on the invitation we heard in this time of reflection. Help us to be not only hearers but doers of your word. Amen."

Prayer

Living Christ, thank you for your life that gives us life, now and eternally. Teach us how to leave the past behind and live in the power of your resurrection every day, as a witness to the new life we celebrate at Easter. Amen.

Song Suggestions

Happy Day

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_9QiWorBaY&list=PLP56RteGPR8hH3fw45oy5oFzoBPYwt-kC&index=2&t=0s

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztugxlfwP4c>

Thine Is the Glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmJgbpJQHYU>

I am the Resurrection and the Life

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=i+am+the+resurrection+and+the+life+gowans+and+larsson

The Same Power

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0AhLUTp368&list=PLP56RteGPR8hH3fw45oy5oFzoBPYwt-kC&index=5&t=0s>

In Christ Alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16KYvflc2bE&list=PL0ONU3wVC9D2M2sp7Fvblt9mZOTDD9bWI&index=5>

One Day

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fu2UY88yHNC>

Because He Lives

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgCxDIRwRxA>