



#### From the Pastor's Study

It is my heartfelt desire, as well as the goal of this month's newsletter, to encourage our church family through a focus on the events of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. The articles in this newsletter will help educate you on what Scripture has to say regarding these two significant events, as well as share with you how some of our own New Village families seek to intentionally celebrate these significant events in a Christ-honoring way. My goal as your Pastor, and the goal of the entire Elder board, is to faithfully shepherd the flock. As Paul puts it in Colossians 1:28: "...that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Preceding that audacious goal, Paul instructs that this will be accomplished only through "warning everyone and teaching everyone." To that end, we provide some articles and ideas on how you and your family can seek to honor Christ while contemplating the significance of his Good Friday and Resurrection Day works on our behalf. May you and your family glorify God by bringing out the significance of these events in the midst of a world celebrating bunnies and baskets!

*"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received; that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scripture, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep." (1 Cor. 15:1-6).*

#### Pastor Mark



## Eight Reasons Why I Believe That Jesus Rose from the Dead

### 1. Jesus himself testified to his coming resurrection from the dead.

Jesus spoke openly about what would happen to him: crucifixion and then resurrection from the dead. "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31; see also Matthew 17:22; Luke 9:22). Those who consider the resurrection of Christ unbelievable will probably say that Jesus was deluded or (more likely) that the early church put these statements in his mouth to make him teach the falsehood that they themselves conceived. But those who read the Gospels and come to the considered conviction that the one who speaks so compellingly through these witnesses is not the figment of foolish imagination will be unsatisfied with this effort to explain away Jesus' own testimony to his resurrection from the dead.

### 2. The tomb was empty on Easter.

The earliest documents claim this: "When they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:3). And the enemies of Jesus confirmed it by claiming that the disciples had stolen the body (Matthew 28:13). The dead body of Jesus could not be found. There are four possible ways to account for this.

- His foes stole the body. If they did (and they never claimed to have done so), they surely would have produced the body to stop the successful spread of the Christian faith in the very city where the crucifixion occurred. But they could not produce it.
- His friends stole the body. This was an early rumor (Matthew 28:11-15). Is it probable? Could they have overcome the guards at the tomb?
- Jesus was not dead, but only unconscious when they laid him in the tomb. He was obviously dead. The Romans saw to that. The stone could not be moved by one man from within who had just been stabbed in the side by a spear and spent six hours nailed to a cross.
- God raised Jesus from the dead. This is what he said would happen. It is what the disciples said did happen.

### 3. The disciples were almost immediately transformed from men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19) into men who were confident and bold witnesses of the resurrection (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:2).

Their explanation of this change was that they had seen the risen Christ and had been authorized to be his witnesses (Acts 2:32).

(To read this article in its entirety, please visit the website below and search with the article title above)

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Website: <http://www.desiringGod.org>

# HE'S ALIVE!

MATTHEW 28:1-10

How have you sought to teach your children of the significance of Good Friday and Easter?

Fred and Karen Perez;



Last year our family made our own "empty tomb garden" as a centerpiece for our kitchen table. We got a large terracotta saucer, a tiny clay pot, and some grass seed. We made a hill out of soil, and arranged the tiny pot to serve as the tomb opening. We lashed small twigs together with string to make three crosses. We planted seeds on our hill, and the kids had fun watering them with the spray bottle and watching them sprout. As Good Friday approached, we had many opportunities around the dinner table to talk about the important events of that week. On Easter Sunday the kids were excited to roll away the stone from our clay "tomb".

God bless.

## Is Easter Too Violent for Kids?

Every year, around this time, parents and churches ponder how to communicate the Easter story to children, as something more than dyed eggs. The problem is, of course, that it's impossible to talk about the resurrection of Jesus without talking about death. And, in the case of Jesus, it's really hard to talk about death without talking about crucifixion.

Some churches resolve this tension by deeming the cross too violent for kids. They talk instead about Easter meaning that Jesus is our "forever friend." They say that Jesus "went away for a little while, and his friends were sad," but that he soon "came back to see them."

Our children need to hear the Gospel. They need to see Jesus. That means they need to see both sides of skull place. That's graphic, sure. It's confusing, of course. And not just for kids.

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus is the Gospel. That's the first word. If we cannot speak of that, we would be better off not speaking of Jesus at all, rather than presenting another Christ, one who meditates but does not mediate, who counsels but is not crucified, who is accessible but not triumphant over sin and death.

<http://www.russellmoore.com/2012/04/02/is-easter-too-violent-for-kids/>

Melissa Amaya;

In years past I have made it a habit to focus on the death, burial and resurrection of Christ through my trusty old ESV as well as through our Jesus Story Book Bible. I use this season to reinforce the truths of the Gospel and the doctrines of sin and salvation. During the week preceding Resurrection Sunday I will read through the Gospel records of the passion with my children. As I read I will explain to them why everything happened and what it means and how all of it was God's foreordained plan to rescue those who would repent and trust in Him. In the evenings we will read through the account in the Jesus Story Book Bible which does a WONDERFUL job of pointing to Christ in each and every story. This year, on Sunday morning, we will also be utilizing the Resurrection Eggs from Family Life as an interactive, hands on way to once again recount the story of Christ's redeeming work through his death and resurrection.

God Bless.

*"The first thing that stuck in the minds of the disciples was not the empty tomb, but rather the empty grave clothes - undisturbed in form and position."*

Josh McDowell, Christian Apologist and Author



*"It wasn't that Jesus simply stepped up and said, 'I'll do this for you.' It is that Jesus became the very embodiment of all that sin is."*

Pastor Allister Begg, Parkside Baptist Church, Ohio

*"The whole value of the meditation of the suffering of Christ lies in this, that man should come to the knowledge of himself and sink and tremble."*

Martin Luther, 16th Century Reformer

*"We live and die; Christ died and lived!"*

John Stott, Theologian, Pastor and Christian Author

**HELLO**  
MY NAME IS

Poll: Have a hand in naming our new newsletter.

We'd love to see the congregation to embrace the newsletter. To aide in that we are inviting you to tell us what you think we should name it! We know there are some great ideas out there so please send in your submission to the church office at

[office@newvillagechurch.net](mailto:office@newvillagechurch.net)

Please limit your name suggestions to three words.

# APRIL 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Pioneer Girls	4 Women's Bible Study	5 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group  Roeder/Losak Growth Group  Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	6
<b>7</b> Worship Service Christianity Explored	8	9	10 Pioneer Girls	11 Women's Bible Study	12 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group  Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	13
<b>14</b> Worship Service Christianity Explored	15	16	17 Pioneer Girls	18 Women's Bible Study	19 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group  Roeder/Losak Growth Group  Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	20
<b>21</b> Worship Service	22	23	24 Pioneer Girls	25 Women's Bible Study	26 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group  Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	27
<b>28</b> Worship Service	29	30				