



From the Pastor's Study

So why a church electronic newsletter? And why now? Well, fundamentally, to continue to strive to be faithful to the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Now you're probably thinking, "Did I just hear that correctly?" Are we suggesting that something as simple as a church newsletter will actually keep us faithful to the Gospel? Well, yes... sort of. Certainly, that which is to truly and finally examine our faithfulness to the Gospel are the Scriptures alone!

However, there are many practical tools that help us fulfill our mission. One such tool can be a simple newsletter. Let me explain. As the body of Christ is engaging in its daily activities related to expanding the kingdom of God, in a local church context those activities, goals and outcomes need to be regularly communicated, and celebrated, as we see more and more people become active in that mission! Hence a device like a newsletter.

With the launch of the New Village Church e-Newsletter, we hope to accomplish just that. This newsletter will be a monthly communication that will be sent out by the church office. In this inaugural edition, with the Spring session of Christianity Explored set to kick off Sunday night March 3rd, we take a look at the topic of evangelism with the hope that we, as a church, will continue to embrace the CE ministry as one of the most effective evangelistic endeavors we can be engaged in.

Pastor Mark

CHRISTIANITY
EXPLORED

Christianity Explored is an informal 7-week course for people who'd like to investigate Christianity, or just brush up on the basics. Looking at Mark's gospel, it explores who Jesus is, why he came, and what it means to follow him.

Christianity Explored is primarily for anyone who wants to investigate Christianity informally with a group of other people. Whether you have previous experience of Church, Christians and the Bible, or none at all, this course is for you. Everyone is welcome - from the most sympathetic Sunday schooler to the convinced atheist.

Courses come in various shapes and sizes. A typical evening starts with a bite to eat or maybe just a few cups of coffee, then there's a chance to look at the Bible for yourself and ask any questions that you have. There is a short talk, or the DVD, and then a chance to chat about what you've just heard.

The material is so flexible that it is now being used in countless different formats including very small groups and even one to one, and in settings as diverse as homes, prisons and schools.



Course outline:

- Week 1 Good news: What are we doing here?
- Week 2 Identity: Who is Jesus?
- Week 3 Sin: Why did Jesus come?
- Week 4 The cross: Why did Jesus die?
- Week 5 Resurrection: Why did Jesus rise?
- Week 6 Grace: How can God accept us?
- Week 7 Come and die: What does it mean?

Tim Keller spoke at Lausanne and shared 10 best practices for everyday living:

- Let people around you know you are a Christian (in a natural, unforced way)
- Ask friends about their faith – and just listen!
- Listen to your friends problems – maybe offer to pray for them
- Share your problems with others – testify to how your faith helps you
- Give them a book to read
- Share your story
- Answer objections and questions
- Invite them to a church event
- Offer to read the Bible with them
- Take them to an explore course

What Keller also advises is that we (generally) start with 1-4. If people are interested and want to talk more you can move them to stages 5-7. If they're still interested go on to stages 8-10. Sometimes people will want to go straight to 10, but often people start from way back and need some time to think and discuss things in a non-pressured way. We often think that only stages 8-10 count and invest all our energy there. TK suggests that to get people at stages 8,9,10 you have to put the work in at 1-4. Sometimes you'll have to keep going round the loop multiple times.

<http://timmybrister.com/2012/07/tim-keller-on-evangelism-best-practices/>

Testimonies

Christianity Explored Testimony

It's that time again. Christianity Explored is just around the corner. I have to say that it is a unique experience to have your family welcomed into the Church in such a warm way. My first impression was that of worry and concern. I think it can always be nerve-racking to introduce your non-believing family to the Church family and the word of God. The friendly environment helped to alleviate any tension perceived or real. I loved that the video was Gospel saturated and held your attention. It had a great impact on me to see the people I love discussing Bible truths with a smile on their faces. I never thought my family would ever agree to come to such a church program, especially with their backgrounds, but they did and they kept coming back. I encourage all to extend an invite to any friends or family you wish to be exposed to the Gospel and to pray for the volunteers and guests at the CE beginning March 3rd. You never know what God will do.

In Christ, Mike Sterlacci

Jim Kay on Christianity Explored

Christianity Explored provides an opportunity for nonchurch goers and churchgoers also to come together on seven Sunday evenings in a non-threatening environment to explore aspects of Christianity revealed through the gospel of Mark. The forum is open to the questions that interest the participants-who usually include friends from New Village Church. These "Small group" discussions allowed me to explore Christianity and my need for Christ in a manner unavailable elsewhere in our New Village Church ministry.

Jim Kay

How Can I Glorify God?

By Kevin DeYoung <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/>

The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. But have you ever thought about how to glorify God—I mean practically in every day life?

- Here are twenty biblical ways you can.
- Give God verbal declarations of praise (Revelation 4:8-9).
- Live a life of noticeable piety (Matthew 5:16; James 1:27; 1 Peter 2:12).
- Ask God for things in Jesus' name (John 14:13).
- Bear fruit and show yourself to be a disciple of Jesus (John 15:8).
- Declare the truth about Jesus (John 16:14).
- Love your life less than God (John 21:19; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:16).
- Worship God as God (Romans 1:21).
- Live a life of sexual purity (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- Live a life of generosity (2 Corinthians 9:13).
- Rejoice in God's glory displayed in creation (Psalm 19:1).
- Do the works of faith (2 Thessalonians 1:12).
- Use your gifts in God's strength (1 Peter 4:11).
- Make sure everyone knows you're not God (Acts 12:23).
- Live a life of gratitude (Psalm 50:23; 2 Corinthians 4:15).
- In matters of liberty, seek the good of others (1 Corinthians 10:31).
- Extend grace to sinners (2 Corinthians 8:19).
- Be a part of a local church (2 Corinthians 8:23; Ephesians 3:20-21).
- Tell God you are wrong and he is right (Joshua 7:19; Jeremiah 13:16; Rev 16:9).
- Obey God (Leviticus 10:3; Malachi 2:2).
- Go from a Christ-despiser to a Christ-worshiper (Galatians 1:24)



"If sinners will be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our bodies. And if they will perish, let them perish with our arms about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, at least let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go there unwarned and unprayed for." -C.H. Spurgeon, 19th century English Baptist Pastor.

"We don't fail in our evangelism if we tell them the Gospel and they fail to be converted; we fail if we do not faithfully tell them the Gospel at all times. We know that we are called to tell them and so we do and trust God with the results." Mark Dever, Pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church and founder of 9 Marks Ministries (9marks.org).

"...He who wins souls is wise." Proverbs 11:30b

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.

Please limit your name suggestions to three words.

MARCH 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Roeder/Losak Growth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	2
3 Worship Service	4	5	6 Pioneer Girls Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Christian Service Brigade	7	8 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	9 Cozy Mountain Lodge Women's Retreat
10 Worship Service	11	12	13 Pioneer Girls Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Christian Service Brigade	14	15 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Roeder/Losak Growth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	16
17 Worship Service	18	19	20 Pioneer Girls Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Christian Service Brigade	21	22 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	23
24 Worship Service	25	26	27 Pioneer Girls Mid-Week Bible Study and Prayer Christian Service Brigade	28	29 Fusion (Grades 6-8) Youth Group Roeder/Losak Growth Group Ignite (grades 9-12) Youth Group	30
31 Worship Service						