

One Choice

Easter Weekend

April 3-4, 2010

On [Sunday] the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words. (Luke 24:1-8)

"But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Apostle Paul, Galatians 4:4-5)

God chose to save us from our sins.

"This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all" (Apostle Paul, 1 Timothy 2:3-6)

God chose to make us His children.

"For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:4-5)

God chose to offer us eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (Jesus, John 3:16)

"Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Apostle Paul, Romans 6:4)

GOD'S ONE CHOICE is YOU!

Morning Star Church
Devotional Guide
ONE, Week 6, One Choice [The Resurrection]
April 5-9

Message synopsis: This weekend, Pastor Mike concluded our *ONE* series by talking about Easter—the celebration Jesus' from the dead. Through this series, we saw that God's plan for all people was that *ONE DAY* in time He sent *ONE LIFE* to pay for our sins. Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice for our sins to bring us back into relationship with God. He died for our sins, and He rose from the dead, triumphant over sin and death. His triumph becomes our *ONE* source of hope and victory. The key to gaining this victory is our *One Choice*...choosing Jesus, the *ONE* way back to Him.

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Day 1 The Verdict of the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Mark 16:9-14; Acts 17:6; Acts 2:22-36

1. The reality of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead has been *too hard to believe* for many people. We read in Mark's Gospel that some of the disciples even found it hard to believe, no matter how clear and convincing the evidence. Do you know of someone who just cannot believe something until they *see it, experience it, and comprehend it completely*? What are some of your doubts about the resurrection?
2. Look closely at the result of the resurrection in the lives of Jesus' disciples. At first, they doubted it, then they received it and believed it . . . and their faith transformed them from timid cowards into bold witnesses. The verdict was demonstrated by their lives. What realities are demonstrated in your lifestyle?

Day 2 Jesus Brings New Life Out of Dead Things

Luke 24:14-31; John 14:19b-20; Romans 8:11

1. These two disciples were on the road to disappointment; their dreams were crushed, and their hopes were abandoned. As you read the Luke passage, isn't it interesting that the *One* who could bring them new life, new dreams, and new hope was right beside them and they did not see Him? What is dead in your life? What dreams do you need Jesus to resurrect? What area in your life needs resurrection power? Do you recognize He is right beside you as you are on the road of your disappointment?
2. In Jesus there is always the possibility of reversibility—victory—resurrection of things that we have ruined and thought were finished. Our God has this way of going against all odds, bringing life where

there once was none—restoring joy, hope, and purpose. It is uniquely God! What are your thoughts about this trait in God?

Day 3 His Resurrected Body and the Scars

John 20:1-31

1. When you read John's record of the resurrection, you can't help but notice the uniqueness of the resurrected body of Jesus. He was no longer restricted to time and space; He could appear and disappear at will. He could pass through the rock walls of a tomb or through the stone walls of a house. Imagine what it must have meant for His followers to see Him again and walk with Him again. Discuss your observations here.
2. One of the most fascinating things about this passage is that even though Jesus had a new, completely whole , the scars of His suffering remained (see John 20:27). Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. They remind us of traumatic events that we would like to forget but sometimes they remind us of things we went through that we can use to encourage others. Why does Jesus still have His scars?

Day 4 God's Choice is Eternal Life for Us

Ephesians 1:4-7, 9-11; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 18-20; John 3: 14-17; Revelation 13:8

1. All of these verses refer to God's plan of the ages. It was in God's heart to provide a Way for us to recover from the fall of sin in all of our lives. That Way was God's ONE CHOICE, His Son, Jesus Christ. Since the beginning of time, God anticipated the joy of His people in His presence throughout eternity.
2. Respond to this idea: God knew you before He ever created the first star in the universe and He made the choice to provide a way to make sure you could have eternal life with Him forever.

Day 5 God's Choice is to Allow Us to Make the Choice

John 1:12; John 5:24; John 20:31; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Revelation 3:20.

1. The verses above talk about the free choice God has given for us. It was His deliberate will to create the opportunity for you to decide if you would choose Jesus as your personal Savior or not. What does your free choice mean to you?
2. Read Romans 10:9,10 and Deuteronomy 30:19. People must decide. God's plan was *One Way, One Question, One Truth, One Life, One Choice*...Jesus. Why do so many people decide not to receive Jesus as their personal Savior?

Morning Star Church
Small Group Discussion Guide
ONE, Week 6, One Choice, Easter
April 5-9

Group Icebreaker

Do you remember the movie *A Christmas Story*? Ralphie had only one Christmas wish: a Red Rider BB gun. Pastor Mike talked about the movie *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*. Neal Page had one desire as well: to get home to his family—whatever it took to complete that task. Share with your group about a time in your life when you wanted something so bad you would do anything to get it.

1. Mike talked about how Mary (Jesus' mother), Mary Magdalene, and some of His followers took his body to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Luke 23:50-56). There have been many experiences in our life where we have felt like we were trapped in a tomb with no escape: job loss, death of a loved one, broken homes, a dream shattered, legalism, a past decision, a nagging habit, or even a good life. Share with your group either your personal knowledge of a *tomb experience* or of someone you know in a *tomb experience* right now that your group could pray over.
2. Romans 6:4 indicates that Jesus' resurrection power is not just about raising Him from the dead and giving us eternal life. Rather, it's about raising up new life out of tomb experiences in *this* life. Pray together about those experiences your group just mentioned and for God's resurrection power to come to them.
3. Pastor Mike talked about three of God's choices: **to save us from our sins** (1 Timothy 2:3-6); **to make us His children** (Ephesians 1:4-5); **to give us eternal life** (John 3:16). All three are incredible choices that God made for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Discuss in your group which one is particularly meaningful to you today.
4. God's ONE CHOICE is **YOU!** Nothing can come between you and God; it is His plan of the ages. God did all He could to give you life, but He wants you to chose Him as well. Mike said love is not about forcing you; love has to be chosen. You have to have the freedom to love God if you want to. Confer about that truth in your group.

Prayer Requests: