

The Next Six Day Challenge

STAY CONNECTED

***Reminders:** *If you are a visitor/guest, please complete the connection card that is attached to the bulletin, detach it and then place it in the offering plate when it comes around, we would love to connect and stay in touch with you.*

*FIRST THINGS FIRST

Today is National...

- Easter Sunday
- April Fool's Day
- Sourdough Bread Day

Getting Started: God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, 'I love you. **-Billy Graham**

*Digging Deeper: 5 Important Facts About Jesus' Resurrection

- 1. There were many witnesses:** There were more than 500 witnesses who testified to the resurrection. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-6.
- 2. The Rolled Away Stone Was Significant:** Jesus or the angels rolled away the stone of Jesus' tomb not so He could get out, but so others could get in and see that the tomb was empty, testifying to the resurrection. The stone was around 2 tons and would have taken many strong men to move it. The tomb was also sealed off and watched by Roman guards so the idea that the disciples secretly came at night is hard to buy.
- 3. The Resurrection Was Prophesized:** According to 1 Corinthians 15, Jesus rose from the dead as the Scriptures had previously prophesied. Isaiah said that Jesus would be cut off from the living and then brought back to prolonged life (Isaiah 53:8-10).

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4. It Was Bodily Resurrection: Many people think that the resurrection of Jesus was only a spiritual resurrection but it wasn't just spiritual. It was also a bodily resurrection. It was understood by the Corinthian believers that physical death meant spiritual separation but it also meant the physical presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8). This was not unusual for them to consider. However, Paul emphasized in 1 Corinthians 15 that the resurrection of Christ was bodily resurrection. The bodily resurrection is the most important event in history, providing indisputable evidence that Jesus is who He claimed to be – the Son of God.

5. The Resurrection is Just a Beginning: Jesus rose from the dead first, but His resurrection was an indication of what was to come in our resurrection. The Bible tells us, "But Christ had indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all would be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15: 20-22). The power that was used by God to raise up Jesus is the same power that will be used in our resurrection. But not all of us will be raised through the resurrection. Some of us will be alive at the time of Jesus' return.

***Memory Verse:** *Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification.* – **Romans 4:25**

***UMC Lesson of the Week:** "By justification we are saved from the guilt of sin, and restored to the favor of God; by sanctification we are saved from the power and root of sin, and restored to the image of God." -On Working Out Our Own Salvation, 1785 -**John Wesley**

***Further Study Read:** *"The Case For Easter"* By Lee Strobel

***Today's Spiritual Challenge & Question(s):** When you leave church today, what new commitments are you going to implement to truly follow Christ?

***Further Study Read:** "Tree Spirituality: An Introduction to Trees, Humans, And the Realm They Share," by **DJ MacPherson**

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