

# DEEPER ROOTS

April 1-6

## Planting Seeds: Read Matthew 28:1-10

Both the women and the men who came to the tomb received the same initial message, when they realized that Jesus was no longer dead in the tomb. "Do not be afraid." This phrase that appears so often in the Bible, when people come face to face with God, or His messengers, is again repeated as the Disciples begin to grapple with the reality of the Resurrection. The idea that a dead person could come back to life was just as unsettling to the Disciples as it would be to us. This was a hard idea to grasp. And yet, God did not want His people proceeding in fear. It is never God's desire for us to act in fear. As Christians our primary motivation should never be fear and it should always be love. The testimony of the Bible is that our God is a God who acts in love and our faithful obedience and response will also be in love. Jesus comes to Earth because He loves us. Jesus dies on the cross because He loves us. Jesus resurrects Himself to new life in the power of love. This week as we celebrate new life, eternal life, abundant life, we should always think and move in love, not fear. **How are you tempted on a daily basis to think and live in fear? What does it look like for you to live a life that is motivated by love?**

## Digging Deep: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-29

It is so interesting to see the different ways that different people respond when they see the resurrected Jesus for the first time. There is fear, there is confusion, there is doubt, there is joy, there is weeping. To see that the Messiah, the anointed one, the appointed one, the one that you've been waiting for, the one that you've placed your hope in, is alive, is an emotional experience. We should experience a range of emotions when we consider the Resurrection. It is terrifying. It is confusing. It is also the most exciting event in human history. When Jesus raises Himself back to new life, our sin stays dead in the grave with Him. When Jesus walks out of that tomb, we are eternally alive with Him. This week as we process and name many different emotions, let us make sure we eventually move to joy and celebration. There is hope in the living God. We have too much to celebrate, to be weighed down with pain, fear, and anxiety. **What are some of the current emotions that you are feeling or processing? How does the resurrection of Jesus bring you hope, joy, and excitement?**

Pioneer Drive Baptist Church wants you to grow in The Word during the week of 4.1-6.24. Planting Seeds is a quick devotional and Digging Deep is a more robust study for you, your family, or your group. If you have questions or feedback, please email [Terence@pioneerdrive.org](mailto:Terence@pioneerdrive.org).