



Sunday Mornings: Church or Chill?

Mark Krenz, D.Min.

There's nothing like a relaxing Sunday morning. Bumming around the house in a robe, sipping hot, fresh coffee while reading the Sunday paper. No stress from work, no chores to do, no appointments, just a quiet morning...unless, of course, you have

kids. "Maybe I'll go golfing, maybe a swim, maybe a leisurely walk through the neighborhood, maybe I'll tool around on my truck. Church? Yea right! Why would I want to get all dressed up, have the stress of getting the kids ready and then listen to some boring preacher who's out of touch with the real world. I don't really believe all that stuff anyway. I'm not the type that goes to church. I'd rather chill out at home."

Like many of you, I have better things to do in my life than go to church on Sunday mornings - and I'm a pastor! I also have better things to do in my life than burden other people with church on a fine morning off every week. So why have church every Sunday? Why go every week? Because it's not at all about "going to church."

For me, it's about taking time to stop my crazy weekly routine and give thanks to God for life and breath and family and for saving and freeing me. It's about taking time every week to honor and encounter my creator through worship. It's about making the time to hear God's word and discovering his way for my life. It's about being reminded of and encouraged by God's love, hope, and peace. It's about giving my kids a place to discover God and learn how to live life. It's about being able to connect with other people on this life's journey who are also seeking God and trying their best. It's about laughter and meeting new friends. It's about crying with others in their pain. It's about giving of myself and serving others in a vision for our community and world that is bigger than me. It's not going

to church that gets me out of bed every Sunday, it's being the church.

Have you been to one of our local San Tan Area churches? They're not your grandma's church (unless, of course, she actually goes to one of these - which would be awesome). You'll find passionate people who are genuinely trying to live out their faith, other people who are just beginning to explore their faith, great music with awesome bands, pastors who are normal people and understand the challenges of daily life, worship services that are relaxing and casual, creative messages that are firmly grounded in scripture and in touch with modern life, fun children's and youth programs, etc.

So what have you got to lose? You'll find so much more than what you're giving up. You likely discover that going to church on Sunday mornings can be the best part of your week.

Dr. Mark Krenz is the lead pastor of ONE Community Church - a "church for people who don't like church." ONE meets 9:30am on Sundays at the new Mountain Vista K-8 in San Tan Heights (1/4 mile behind the new Sonic on Hunt Hwy). Check them out at www.discoverONE.net or email mark@discoverONE.net.



Pictured: Pam with Baby Nadine

A New Baby!

Introducing Nadine Bethany Gilchrist who arrived Saturday morning, just after midnight on March 10, 2007. Nadine weighed 8 lbs. 6oz. Mother and Baby are home and doing well. Pam is a new reporter for the Hot Spot Journal.



Relational Investments Pay Huge Dividends

Debbie Hay, Children and Family Pastor LifePoint Church

I grabbed my daughter's cell phone from her friend who was snooping through her text messages. I told him, "Even I do not snoop through her text messages; I don't have to because she tells me most of what is going on." (I am very aware that she does not tell me everything, but I also know she tells me a lot more than she wants to tell me!) With a serious look on her friend's face he asked, "How do you have a relationship with your children?" His question took me by surprise. He continued, "I don't tell my parents anything because every time I do they turn it into a lecture and try to teach me something."

My heart sank. I thought to myself, "Wow, his parents are missing the chance to get to step further into this remarkable kid's world." I tried giving him the long answer but could tell he wasn't THAT interested so I summarized by saying, "I spend time listening." The truth is that listening started a long time ago when I realized my daughter was experiencing the same insignificance that I felt as a child. This began a bed-time visit every night, not just for her to say bed time prayers, but primarily to listen to her talk about whatever. I would, more than not, bite my tongue allowing her to shape her view of the world.

Secondly, I prayed prayers (out loud) calling forth attributes that were not yet fashioned in her. Father, Thank you that she is bold and courageous making good choices. Thank you that she is pure and faithful to you. Thank you that you give her the mind of Christ as well as understanding of all kinds of learning (Daniel 1:17). My investment of time was like making deposits in her relational-bank-account from which, as a teenager, we are drawing. Secretly I pray that any objectionable behavior would be revealed to us, her parents, and this too has come to pass!

It has been challenging at times, I cannot lie. My intention was to be the best parent possible but little did I know the impact and influence she would have on my life. God has created this amazing young woman who has taught me just as much as I have taught her. I look forward to the continued twists and turns of the road ahead but mostly I look forward to the purposes of God continually expressed through her life. Being fully invested, I am convinced that nothing will stop His sovereignty.

The Best Hour of your Kid's Week! Check it out every Sunday at either 9:00am or 10:45am at Copper Basin School or for more information check out www.lifepointpeople.com click on KidLife. Lead Pastor of

What's On Your Mind?

You know those times when a question pops into your mind-you know, the kind about life? Questions that you would love to ask God or even a Biblical scholar about? Well now's your chance; we are going to take a shot at some of the most popular questions people have about life and everything it throws at you.

April 15th How do I know I am going to Heaven?	May 6th Do I have a purpose in life?
April 22nd Should I care about global warming?	May 13th (Mother's Day) What have I learned from my mom?
April 29th Why do bad things happen to good people?	May 20th Is there a creator?

SERVICE TIME
Sundays, 10:00 am

LOCATION
Skyline K-8 School
1084 W. San Tan Hills
Queen Creek, AZ 85248

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theRockEternal

FireStorm

"Be ignited in His Presence during an evening of Bold praise and intimate Worship"

A Call for Christian Unity Concert

Coolidge Performing Arts Center
(Adjacent to Coolidge High School)
6th & Northern Avenue, Coolidge, Arizona

Featuring
TREASURE

Saturday May 12th, 2007 at 6:30 PM
Free Will Donation

(Special TREASURE Gift CD provided; extra proceeds donated to the Family Resource Center of Coolidge)

For Information call (520) 723-3296 or visit our website at www.SpiritOfJoyUMCaz.org; to hear TREASURE visit their website at www.Treasure.org

Event sponsored by Spirit of Joy United Methodist Church, Coolidge, AZ