Bringing it Home

1. Dr. Jeremiah said, “Hope for a better tomorrow is what sees us through a thousand ‘every days.’” When have you used hope (for a better tomorrow) to get you through the challenges of the current day? How does hope keep us going in the face of frustration, challenge and despair?

2. Connecting (or reconnecting) with the hope we have in Christ’s resurrection, allows us to hope in ways we never have before. Where do you need hope in your life right now? In what ways do you feel empty? How can you let Christ fill your emptiness with hope?

“The Emptiness of Easter”  Dr. David Jeremiah
April 24, 2011
John 20:1-31

Sermon Notes

I. The expectation of emptiness - John 19:31-36; Mark 16:1

II. The encounter with emptiness - John 20:1-10

A. The place where the stone had been was empty - John 20:1; Matthew 27:59-60; Mark 16:3

B. The place where the soldiers had been was empty - Matthew 27:62-66; 28:4

C. The place where Jesus had been was empty - Matthew 28:5-6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:3, 6; John 20:2

D. The grave clothes in which Jesus had been wrapped were empty - John 20:3-8

III. The experience of emptiness - John 20: 11-15

IV. The end of emptiness - John 20:16

A. Because he is risen my failures are not final - Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17-18, 20

B. Because he is risen my life is not futile - Ephesians 1:18-20

C. Because he is risen my death is not final - John 11:25-26
**Small Group Questions**

**Getting Started**

1. Describe your most memorable Easter as a child. What events took place on that day? Who was with you on that day? What made that day important to you?

2. Now, talk about your first Easter as a Christian. How was this Easter similar (or different) to your first childhood Easter? As you look back on your first “Christian” Easter, what stands out as the most important part of your day?

**Digging Deeper**

1. In the sermon we heard, “Before you can have a resurrection, you must have a death.” Go back to the sermon notes; How do we know that Jesus actually died? What are some of the specific evidences to his death?

2. Death brings grief. But, people experience/express grief in many different ways. What images come to mind when you think of grieving? Who do you know who has recently grieved the loss of someone dear to them? When you watch someone grieve, what do you think or feel?

3. Death is a difficult part of life. But, God doesn’t view death as permanent and neither should we. Read the following verses and discuss God’s plans for death.
   
   - Isaiah 25:8
   - Romans 6:23
   - 1 Corinthians 15:20-22
   - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
   - Revelation 21:1-4

4. We also heard, “Because of His Resurrection, there are huge implications for all of us.” Pick one of the following statements and tell the group how Christ’s resurrection helps us face our failures, life or death.
   
   - My Failures Are Not Final because…
   
   - My Life Is Not Futile because…
   
   - My Death Is Not Final because…

5. We learned that “One of man’s most basic needs and one of God’s best gifts is forgiveness.” How do people experience this amazing gift of forgiveness when they believe in the resurrection of Jesus? How have you experienced it?