

## Hope is Here

### Small Group Questions

#### Getting to know you question:

1. How does your family celebrate Easter?

#### Sermon reflection questions:

2. How was Dennis' sermon different than what you normally expect at Easter?

#### Into the Bible:

Easter is the celebration of resurrection—Christ's and yours. Read the resurrection story recorded in Luke 24:1-12. The last sentence tells us that Peter left the tomb wondering what had happened. So what did happen? It may be more than you may think.

3. After Jesus rose, he taught his disciples for forty days. (Acts 1:3). Then Peter went on to give four sermons recorded in the first five chapters of Acts. What was his key point? (See Acts 2:32; 3:15; 4:10&20 and 5:29-32)

4. When someone is a witness at a trial, they testify for a few minutes, then go back to their own business. How was the disciple's testimony different? How did the resurrection change their lives—for the rest of their lives?

5. How would Christianity be different if Jesus had not risen from the dead?

6. Jesus rose from the dead. This was certainly good for Jesus, and changed the disciples, but how was it extended to you in John 6:40 and 44?

#### *You are not who you were.*

7. Your old life ended with the cross. Your new life begins with the resurrection. Read Gal. 2:20. How was the old you different than the new you? In what way does Christ live in you now?

#### *You are not who you would have been.*

8. Colossians 3:1-4. Because you were raised with Christ, on what are you to focus your heart and your mind? How do you do that?

9. But how do we live in the here and now? The same passage goes on to tell us. Look at Col. 3:5-14. What do you think your life would be like today without Christ?

#### *You are not who you will be.* Read 1 John 3:1-3.

10. Who are you now according to verse 1? How does that benefit you?

11. What will change when Jesus appears? (v.2) How does this passage tell you to prepare? How would you advise a younger believer to do this?

#### Application:

12. Thank God for what he has done, submit to what he is doing, and direct your life's actions toward the day when you will truly become like Jesus.