**“Hope that is not Wishful”**

**Mark 16:4-8**

**I. Hope is not meaningful, unless hope seems lost …**

**A) A Hopeless World**

**B) The Disciples and Hope *Lost***

**II. Hope is not believable, unless hope has some evidence …**

*“Seemingly defeated on Friday. But Sunday changes the world!”*

**A) Evidence of the Empty Tomb**

1) opponents never produced a body

Matthew 27:62-66

2) guards

Matthew 28:2-4, 11-15

3) eye witnesses

4) followers willing to die for a lie?

**B) Evidence of Changed Lives**

1 Corinthians 15:16-18

**III. Hope is not realized, unless faith becomes sight …**

**A) Thomas**

John 20:25, 26-29

**B) Us**

1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12

***Application Questions:***

*• Do you feel “left out” by God? How does Thomas’s/Peter’s story encourage you that God will not forget you?*

*• How does the evidence of the empty tomb provide a firm foundation for other hopes you may have?*

*• What do you think of the statement, “If all seems lost and even your dimmest hopes of God seem like gray glowsticks in a forest at midnight … you might be closer to God than you think!?”*

*• How have you been impacted by other Christians who have displayed faith and hope in difficult trials? How has God given you hope in a seemingly hopeless situation?*

*• Why does the resurrection of Jesus Christ give ultimate hope to every life crisis?*