

EASTER SUNDAY The Easter Project April 19 & 20, 2014 Pastor Harry Kuehl Discover how God reconstructs beauty out of brokenness

PERSONAL STUDY QUESTIONS

1. When was the last time something that was very special to you got broken? How did you handle this situation?

What became of the broken item?

2. What was your reaction at this weekend's Easter service when the table was destroyed?

How about when from out the broken table, something beautiful was made?

What was the message behind this symbolic act?

3. Take a look at Isaiah 61:3. What does this verse mean to you?

How have you seen God turn ashes in to beauty in your own life or in the life of someone close to you?

4. What is the hardest thing for you personally about trusting God in a time of brokenness?

- 5. How does the crucifixion and then resurrection of Christ offer us hope for our own times of brokenness? (see Romans 6:4, 1 Corinthians 15:54-58)
- 6. What do you think God teaches us in a time of brokenness that perhaps we would not be able to grasp any other way?

7. N.T. Wright wrote: "The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom.... It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven. ...The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it." What does it mean to you to live in newness of life because of Christ?

What are some ways we can live above the brokenness of the world around us and yet also make a difference in it?

8. **Take a look at Jeremiah 18:1-6.** What truth was God wanting to get across to the prophet Jeremiah? What do these verses say to *you*?

How is clay different than other mediums for creation? How does clay change and what changes it?

Personal Meditation: This week spend some time meditating on what it means to be clay in the hands of the potter. What tools does the potter use to shape clay? How is clay transformed from raw material into something of meaningful purpose? If you don't know, do a little research on the topic. How do you see God using these same methods —symbolically—to transform you and make you useful to Him and for Him?

Memorize 1 Peter 1:3-4— "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade."