

CELL NOTES
For Dave Day's talk on 18 May 2008

HOPE IN THE DARK PLACES

Isaiah 45:3

I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness...secret riches

Romans 8:31-49

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

Genesis 15:17

The time of covenant was the time of great darkness

FACE THE DARKNESS

The cycle of shock, denial, anger, acceptance, reconciliation

FACE YOUR FEARS

Acknowledge your fears, deal with the guilt

FACE WITH FAITH

Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God

What is God saying? How do we discern what God is saying?

FACE THE DARKNESS WITH THE FUTURE IN SIGHT

We are a people with eternity in our hearts

This is not the end of the story

Our darkness needs to be seen in the context of eternal light

FACE WITH FRIENDS

We become a healing community

Discussion

1. Discuss the following from "A Life of Endurance" by John Ortberg

I was recently involved in a survey in which hundreds of people were asked to identify the factors that were most formative in their spiritual growth. The number one response overwhelmingly involved times of suffering and pain. Ironically, the role of suffering is one of the most neglected issues in spiritual growth, because we do not arrange for it to happen as we might Bible study or prayer. Instead, life inevitably

arranges it for us. So if we are going to be transformed, we must look at how suffering benefits us, or at least how to respond to it.

2. Are there any personal stories in the cell of finding hope in dark places?
3. Are there any situations or people that you as a cell can get behind and support?
4. How can we walk through the tension of believing in healing and recognising that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope?