



I LOVE MY CONNECT

STUDY 9

Emptiness to Fullness!

**Luke 24:6, Genesis 1:1, Luke 24:21, 1 Corinthians 15:14, Romans 8:34,
2 Kings 4:1-7, Ephesians 3:19**

In the beginning the earth was formless and empty, then God! In His extraordinary power, God replaced emptiness with creativity, order, and purpose. In Genesis 1:1 when God said, "let there be", there was!

Emptiness may describe parts of your life. Whether it be spiritual, a specific situation, or in your day to day circumstances, many are living with a profound sense of emptiness. Maybe you've prayed what seem to be empty prayers. Maybe you feel stuck. Whatever it may be, you should never underestimate the fullness God can bring to your empty places because God is an emptiness specialist!

Right now, it may seem like the truth is lost in the emptiness. Rest assured, when it comes to the will and promise of God, the truth will always find a way to come out. And the truth will set you free. In Jesus Christ the truth could not be held back. Death could not hold Him. This is witnessed by an empty tomb. Jesus is not only a crucified Christ, he is our resurrected Lord!

A resurrected Jesus means that whilst we can be surrounded by so much emptiness if we ask, "Where is Jesus?" we know He is at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for us. Literally Jesus is praying for you! Fullness comes out of Jesus Christ and as Ephesians 3:19 states, we are filled with the fullness of God!

CONNECTION AND ACTION *Use these questions to promote conversation and connection.*

- Q:** Having recently celebrated Easter, What does the empty tomb mean for you?
- Q:** God takes empty situations and adds His fullness. Describe a circumstance where you experienced the fullness of God?
- Q:** How do you think the world's view of fullness compares with God's?
- Q:** What do you do to stay "full" What difference does being "full" make?
- Q:** How can we support those who are feeling empty?
- Q:** Choosing God's truth over our feelings can be difficult at times. What have you discovered about doing it well?
- Q:** Jesus is at the right hand of God, making intercession for us (Romans 8:34). How should this affect the way we approach each day?

HIGHLIGHTS COMING UP

- Sisterhood United Night – Tues 22nd May 7pm for all the girls! Do what you can to be part of the night! Men do what you can to help the woman in your world be there!!
- Hillsong Foundation Breakfast – Sat 26 May 8-9:30am at our Hills/City/Brisbane & South West Campuses. Be inspired to play your part! RSVP via myhillsong.com

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BIBLE AND BELIEF Use these scriptures and questions to help believers develop a Biblical worldview.

Read Romans 4:25, 6:4, 8:1, 8:34, and Ephesians 2:6

These verses describe what the empty Tomb means for us.

- Q:** Make a list of the accomplishments Jesus achieved for us. (*Hint. New life, New standing (Justified), Access to God*)
- Q:** Why is it important that the condemnation brought against us has been overcome?
- Q:** Jesus is described as the firstfruits (1 Cor. 15:20.) How should this inspire our eternal perspective?

Read Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:9-12

The fullness of God was in Christ Jesus.

- Q:** To be filled to the measure, or fullness, of God, we need to know the knowledge of the love of Christ. Read Romans 5:7-8 and discuss.
- Q:** To know Jesus Christ is to carry His fullness. Do you feel full? Why? Why not?
- Q:** How can we share this fullness with others?
- Q:** How does Scripture, God's Word, keep us full? (*Hint. 2 Timothy 3:16*)

GROWING LEADERSHIP Use these questions to help people in your group grow as leaders.

- Q:** How ought Jesus' resurrection shape our leadership?
- Q:** Are the demands greater on a leader to be "full"? In what ways? How do we achieve that?
- Q:** What are some scenarios you've experienced in your connect group or team where someone was grappling with "emptiness" of one form or another? How did you address that as a leader and as a group? What did you or can we learn from that experience? (**Leader's Tip:** Use this to discuss how to respond to pastoral issues in a connect group or team).

Check Up

Check in with leaders in your group on how they're going with:

- Raising new leaders and starting new Connect Groups.

PRAY TOGETHER

- New Connect Group Leaders
- Nation Builders Faith Goal
- Hillsong Copenhagen – Thomas & Kat Hansen

PASTORAL CARE

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside of people in your group who may be going through a tough time
- Please contact the church office Sydney 02 8853 5353 or Brisbane 07 3422 8500 to let us know of anybody in your group (with their permission) who have sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, surgeries.

NATION BUILDERS – Causes we are supporting through Nation Builders:

1. **Church Planting** – Supporting a new generation of dynamic leaders to plant & build churches that will serve communities, influence cities and ultimately impact nations. Including: Amsterdam, Japan, Moscow, Paris, Stockholm, Copenhagen and Hillsong Germany.
2. **Gospel Missions** – Supporting missions locally & others that are furthering the Gospel all around the world. Including: Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), Hillsong TV and overseas workers in SE Asia.

At Vision Sunday 2012 Pastor Brian announced that Thomas & Katherine Hansen will be heading to Denmark to start Hillsong Church COPENHAGEN. They are looking to relocate to Copenhagen at the start of September. Please pray for Thomas and Kat, for people to join as team members and for favour and guidance.

