



Life Group Sermon Study

God Heals the Broken

April 22, 2018



ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- What is the most valuable thing you have broken?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

If anyone knew anything about being broken, it was Israel. They were slaves in Egypt for hundreds of years. When they were freed from slavery, they continued to sin and turn away from their Redeemer in the wilderness. When they finally got settled in the Promised Land, they continued to disobey the Lord's commandments and were taken over by wicked nations. The Kingdom split. Wars were fought. Babylon completely destroyed their temple. They were thrown into exile, forced to serve their occupiers. The Israelites were bruised. They were broken. They probably questioned where God was or if he heard their prayers.

Read Psalm 147:1-11.

Psalm 147 comes at the closing of the book of Psalms. It is within a section (146-150) that all begin and end with the Hebrew word for praise. The psalter moves from the praise of an individual (Psalm 146) to the community of faith (Psalm 147) and ends with the praise of all creation (148-150). Psalm 147 rejoices in the hope of God restoring Israel. It reminds the faithful of the nature and character of the God they worship. God is Creator of all and yet, God intimately cares for us.

1. When you think of the historical context of this passage and the Israelites in exile, how does that compare with your situation?
2. List the verbs in Psalm 147 describing God's activity. Which ones resonate with your life right now?
3. There are so many reasons we feel broken-hearted. Whether it is grief, sin, a mental illness, or pain, our broken-heartedness is real and it hurts. How do we try to deal with our brokenness on our own? What do verses 6, 10 and 11 say about this?
4. Has God ever surprised you with a creative alternative to a seemingly impossible situation?
5. Phil mentioned that there is a divine formula—death precedes life (John 12:24). What fruit is being produced out of the brokenness in your life? Is a new creation waiting to be born in your life now?
6. When the Japanese mend broken objects, they augment the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something's suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful.

Phil said, "The healthiest church has wet eyes, bruised knees, and broken hearts." What can you do to help your church become a healthier, more beautiful church?



EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

Read 1 Peter 5:6-11.

1. What area of your life would you like God to restore and make you strong, firm, and steadfast?
2. Pray that God will use your brokenness to help bring healing to others. Pray that your testimony is not about what you can and cannot do, but what God has and is doing in your life.

Equip Your Mind:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” (2 Cor 1:3-4, NIV)