

Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
Blessed to be Broken (Week 4) – January 22, 2023



*This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and groups to use it. When we hear God's Word, we need to do more than listen. The bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only." (James 1:22) **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon. **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or group.*

DISCUSSION STARTER

Pastor Sam said, "...it was hard for Jeremiah to understand the brokenness he experienced in the midst of his faithfulness. God, I have been faithful so why am I so broken?" How have you seen God's fingerprints during some of the more broken seasons of your life?

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read Lamentations 3:1-20. Jeremiah says, "I will never forget what I have gone through". Through trials Jeremiah has learned that God is his portion. What does it mean to say that God is my portion (or inheritance)? (Psalm 16:5, Psalm 73:26, Psalm 142:5, Lamentations 3:24, Got Questions)

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read Lamentations 3:21-24. Pastor Sam said, "When you focus on your present pain then Hope flees." It's easy to allow our minds to become so consumed in our situations that we begin to lose hope. Do you dare to hope in the midst of your circumstance? To not indulge your flesh in the emotions of hurt and pain, but to refocus your mind and heart on the hope you have. Who does Hebrews 6:19-20 express that our hope is embodied in? And what do we have to do in order to receive that hope? (Ephesians 2:4, 8-9)

DIGGING DEEPER 3

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22). This type of Joy expressed in scripture is generated by our relationship with our Heavenly Father who loves us. The greater our relationship with God, the greater the joy we can experience. Are you in pursuit of a greater relationship with God? Do you practice the steps Pastor Sam gave us? What are some daily practical steps you can take to grow in these areas, and in turn, grow in your relationship with God?

1. Be focused on growing your relationship with God through reading His word and daily prayer time. (Romans 15:4, Job 23:12)
2. Remember past victories. (Psalm 103:2-4)
 - a. Take time to write your personal experiences with God in a journal.
3. Focus on the good. (Philippians 4:8, Colossians 3:1-2)
4. Rejoice Always. (Psalm 118:24, Acts 16:25, John 16:20-22)

DOING THE WORD

"Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning" (Lamentations 3:23).

Joy is the awareness of God's grace (undeserved love). Pastor Sam said when you choose Jesus you have access to Joy. What opportunities do you have to choose Joy in the midst of your present circumstances today? This week?