

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:  
Blessed to be Broken (Blessing of Burdens) – January 1, 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**

Say, "The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. A great time for us to "Consider our ways" (Haggai 1:5)." Ask your group, "What's the most important way, by God's grace, you will try to make this year different from last?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 1**

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.** Say, "When you look at the world today it is shocking what many people believe. For example, early 2021, Nancy Pelosi proposed a rule that would ban House members from using many traditional words including: father, mother, aunt, uncle, brother, sister, daughter, son, and many others. She said that these words are offensive to many people who do not identify with these antiquated ways of describing people's gender and relationships. Satan has blinded the minds of unbelievers. He is actively working to keep them from seeing or accepting the light from Jesus. He is pushing his distorted and twisted version of reality and getting many people to buy in to it. It is a spiritual struggle. Demonic influences are real." Ask, "If we know the spiritual struggle behind souls, how will that change our approach to sharing the gospel? Since people are blind to the truth, what recourse do we have? How can we help the light pierce into the depth of their souls?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 2**

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:7.** Say, "God purposefully chose us and placed His greatness "in jars of clay". Jars of clay are so easily broken, and whatever is inside will spill out. God's plan is not to keep what is inside, inside. God wants what's inside to be released into the world. The world can't see the greatness of God when we keep Him inside in our perfect formed lives. The best way for the world to see God's greatness is when we are broken." Ask the group to, "Share a testimony of how God sustained you through difficulty. How can you use this time of brokenness to help the world to see God and know His greatness?"

**DIGGING DEEPER 3**

**Read 2 Corinthians 4:8-11.** Say, "Paul wanted the life and character of Christ to be displayed through his life, which is what each of us should desire. Paul understood that there are parts of God's character that the world can't see unless it is displayed through our brokenness and suffering. When Jesus suffered on the cross the world saw the true strength and character of God. Therefore, we are blessed to be broken. Your pain has a purpose." Ask, "How can our suffering make us more effective in our ministry?" Say, "In your brokenness the glory and power of Christ is being poured out so the world can see God through you."

**DOING THE WORD.** Say, "Many times, we must choose between convenience and serving God. It might be more comfortable if we remain silent. Perhaps we will be more popular. Sometimes speaking the truth and standing on God's Word may be costly. It could cost us our jobs, friends, promotions, freedom, or even death. But the cost is worth it when compared to the eternal life we are sharing. Ask, "In 2023, how are you going to be the light that attracts people to Jesus?" Close by thanking God that He chose you to be His servant. Pray that He will use you to display His greatness to a lost world.