

**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
Blessed to be Broken (Week 2) – January 8, 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, "C.S. Lewis said, "God whispers to us in our pleasure but he shouts to us in our pain." Ask, "How have you experienced this in your life? Did God use your pain and brokenness to help another and bring Him glory? Explain how."

DIGGING DEEPER 1

Read and Discuss 1 Peter 3:14. Say, "Pastor Sam said, "when you are living for God and you face tragedy, misfortune, or pain; we need to remember, that experience is profitable in your life." Ask, "What blessings or profit come out of suffering for what is right? Discuss as a group our relationship with brokenness and pain as Christians. Ask, "Have you ever experienced an overwhelming boldness in doing God's will, even in the face of potential suffering? In what situation(s) did you experience this?" Say, "If we are willing to suffer for Him, we have the immense joy of reigning with Him in heavenly places."

DIGGING DEEPER 2

Read John 16:33 and Philippians 1:29. Say, "When sin entered the world (Genesis 3) spiritual and physical death came with it. The world and those in it became broken. Tragedy and pain show no prejudice, it knocks on everyone's door. Tragedy and pain are not a Christian or non-Christian thing, it's a humanity thing. We can't live in a broken world with broken bodies and not expect to experience brokenness. Ask, "With that understanding, why do we still ask, "why me, why my family, why sickness, death, tragedy? Have you ever asked yourself, "WHY NOT ME LORD?" Why should your life be pain free and not someone else's?" Say, "Our focus has to shift from why this was given to me, to what do you want me to do with what's been given. Why keeps you in the past, what focuses on your future."

DIGGING DEEPER 3

Read Matthew 16:24. Say, "We are to replicate the life of Jesus." Ask, "So, what happened to Jesus?" Say, "Jesus was afflicted, Jesus was betrayed in relationships, Jesus was rejected by his own family, Jesus had friends who got sick and died, Jesus was beat, and killed." Ask, "So, do you want to be like Jesus?" Discuss. Say, "Pastor Sam stated that God is doing us a favor by allowing us to suffer" (**Romans 5:3-4**). Ask, "How does suffering display the level of our faith?" Say, "Without your faith being tested through sufferings, how will you ever know the level of faith you have? Discuss."

DOING THE WORD. Say, "What has your view of brokenness been in the past? Discuss as a group how your view of brokenness is changing through this sermon series. This week, read, pray, and study through **Isaiah 43:2**. If you really want to experience God, you must be willing to go through it. God can't give you strength until you admit you need it. Ask God to help you see the purpose in your pain. Begin to change your mindset from "why me?" to "why not me?" The more time you spend asking "why" the less opportunity God has to use your struggle and pain to grow you. Finally, tell God that you desperately need Him and thank Him for your brokenness. Then use it as an opportunity for God to display His glory.