

# Small Group Guide: "Mend - God Supernaturally Mends the Broken"

## Opening Prayer & Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time when something broken (an object, relationship, or situation) was repaired or restored. What did that process look like?

## Sermon Overview

This sermon explored how God mends us in three key areas: spirit, body, and soul (mind, will, and emotions). The central message is that God supernaturally mends the broken, and sometimes we get to help in that process.

## Key Scripture References

- Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
- John 3:3-6 - Being born again
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 - Paul's thorn in the flesh
- Philippians 4:6-7 - Peace through prayer
- Ephesians 4:31-32 - Forgiveness
- Galatians 6:2 - Carrying one another's burdens

## Discussion Questions

### Part 1: God Mends Our Spirit (Salvation)

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"? Why does Jesus say this is a blessing rather than something to avoid?
2. Have you admitted to God where you're broken and asked Him to mend you? What makes this admission difficult for people?
3. What does it mean to be "born again"? How would you explain this to someone unfamiliar with Christian terminology?

### Part 2: God Mends Our Bodies

4. Why doesn't God heal everyone who asks for healing? How do we reconcile God's power with unanswered prayers for physical healing?
5. The sermon emphasized putting hope in God rather than in the miracle. What's the difference? How can we maintain this perspective when we're desperately seeking healing?
6. Have you or someone you know experienced judgment from others regarding physical healing and faith? How should we respond to people who are suffering physically?
7. Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. What does Paul's experience with his "thorn in the flesh" teach us about God's purposes in allowing ongoing physical struggles?

### Part 3: God Mends Our Souls (Mind, Will, Emotions)

8. Review the five ways we partner with God to mend people's souls:
  - Engage with God directly
  - Be honest with God and others
  - Forgive and accept forgiveness

- Seek fellowship
  - Know God and know yourself
9. Which of these is easiest for you? Which is most challenging?
  10. The sermon stated: "The truth will set you free, but often it will cause you pain first." Have you experienced this? Share an example if comfortable.
  11. Why is forgiveness described as "supernatural" work? What makes forgiveness so difficult, and how can we seek God's help in forgiving others?
  12. The sermon mentioned that loneliness increases as social media use increases. How can we intentionally build meaningful, face-to-face relationships in our digital age?
  13. The two main misunderstandings people have are:
    - Misunderstanding who God is
    - Misunderstanding their identity in Christ
  14. Which of these do you struggle with more? How can we correct these misunderstandings?

## Key Takeaways

1. Mending means fixing or repairing - God continuously works to make us whole in spirit, body, and soul.
2. Spiritual mending (salvation) comes through recognizing our spiritual poverty and coming to God with empty hands.
3. Physical healing happens according to God's will and timing - We trust in God, not in the miracle itself.
4. Most brokenness is caused by sin - sometimes ours, sometimes others' - but not all brokenness is sin-related.

5. We need each other - Healthy relationships are essential for mental and emotional health.
6. Confession and honesty bring freedom - but often require courage and may involve pain before healing comes.

## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

1. **Spiritual Inventory:** Set aside 30 minutes this week to honestly assess where you're broken and need God's mending. Write it down and pray specifically about these areas.
2. **Reach Out:** Identify one friendship that has grown distant. Make a phone call (not text) to reconnect this week.
3. **Forgiveness Work:** If you're struggling to forgive someone, write the truth about forgiveness on a sticky note and place it on your mirror. Read it daily and ask God to help you believe it in your heart.
4. **Confession:** If you're "sinning the same and repenting the same," identify one trusted person you can confess to and ask for accountability.
5. **Prayer for Healing:** If you or someone you know is struggling with physical illness, commit to praying daily this week - not just for the miracle, but for deeper trust in God regardless of the outcome.
6. **Bible Reading:** Start reading one chapter of the Gospel of John each day to better understand who God is and who you are in Christ.

## Accountability & Prayer

Share & Pray:

- What is one area where you need God's mending right now (spirit, body, or soul)?
- How can this group help carry your burden this week?
- Take time to pray specifically for each person's needs.

Remember: "Blessed are the poor in spirit" - it's okay to admit you need help. That's where God's blessing begins.

## Closing Prayer

Close by praying for one another, asking God to:

- Help each person recognize where they need mending
- Give courage to be honest about brokenness
- Provide supernatural ability to forgive
- Strengthen relationships within the group
- Increase trust in God rather than in desired outcomes

## For Next Week

Reflect on how you've seen God working to mend you this week. Come prepared to share one insight or breakthrough, no matter how small.

## Additional Resources

Memory Verse for the Week: "This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands." - 1 John 5:2

Further Study:

- Read the entire book of 1 John this week (only 5 chapters)
- Study the "love chapter" - 1 Corinthians 13 - in different translations

## Sermon Summary

This sermon explores the church's mission statement word "mend," focusing on how God supernaturally repairs brokenness in three dimensions of human existence: spirit, body, and soul. The message emphasizes that spiritual mending comes through salvation and being "born again" in Christ. Physical mending occurs according to God's sovereign will and timing, not through formulaic prayer or human effort. Mental and emotional mending happens as believers engage directly with God, practice honesty, extend and receive forgiveness, seek fellowship, and develop accurate understandings of God's character and their identity in Christ. The sermon stresses that while God is the ultimate healer, He often uses human relationships and community to facilitate healing. It concludes with a powerful reminder that most brokenness stems from sin—either our own or others'—and that Jesus' broken body and shed blood provide both forgiveness and freedom from shame.

## Scripture References from the Sermon

### Explicitly Mentioned Scripture References:

1. Matthew 5:1-3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
2. John 3:3 - Being born again/born from above
3. John 3:5-6 - "What is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of spirit is spirit"
4. 2 Corinthians 12:9 - Paul's thorn in the flesh, praying three times for its removal
5. Psalm 34:17-18 - The Lord hears the godly cry out and is near the brokenhearted

6. Philippians 4:6-7 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, through prayer and petition..."
7. John 8:31-32 - "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free"
8. Ephesians 4:31-32 - Put away bitterness, anger; be kind and forgiving
9. Galatians 6:2 - "Carry one another's burdens and in this way fulfill the law of Christ"
10. 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 - Instructions about communion/the Lord's Supper
11. 1 John 1:9 - (Alluded to) God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness
12. 2 Corinthians 5:17 - (Alluded to) "If you're in Christ, you're a new creation. The old is gone, the new has come"

## Additional Relevant Scriptures for Themes Discussed:

### On Spiritual Mending/Salvation:

- Ephesians 2:1-5 - Being made alive in Christ
- Romans 3:23-24 - All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- John 3:16 - God so loved the world

### On Physical Healing:

- James 5:14-16 - Prayer for the sick
- Matthew 8:16-17 - Jesus healing many
- John 5:1-9 - Healing at the Pool of Bethesda (referenced as "Pool of Siloam" in sermon)

### On Forgiveness:

- Matthew 6:12, 14-15 - The Lord's Prayer and forgiveness
- Matthew 18:21-22 - Forgiving 70 times 7

- Colossians 3:13 - Bear with each other and forgive

### On Fellowship and Community:

- Hebrews 10:24-25 - Not forsaking the assembly
- Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 - Two are better than one
- Acts 2:42-47 - The early church fellowship

### On Knowing God and Self:

- Psalm 139:23-24 - Search me, O God, and know my heart
- Romans 12:2 - Be transformed by the renewing of your mind