

SERVING LIKE CHRIST



Session 1 & 2

**BROKENNESS and
Characteristics of a Broken
Leader**



Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

Objectives:

Session 1:

- *Identify* the possible ways of understanding a person's heart
- *Understand* the process of brokenness as God's way of changing the heart of a leader
- *Examine* Bible passages and enumerate several models of brokenness in the Bible
- *Discover* the secret of living a broken but blessed life

EXPLORE

“Greatness from Brokenness”

In your small group, try to guess the famous individuals whose stories of triumph over broken dreams and bodies is printed on the other side of the stack of cards on your table. A clue to the individual’s identity is printed on the side that is facing up and which you can read. Each member will first give a guess as to who the famous personality. Turn over each card only after all members have given their guesses.

Learning Nugget:

It is a common fact that most if not all of the world’s great leaders in politics, business, media, arts and entertainment, sports, etc. have gone through some form of personal tragedies or failures before achieving the kind of success that the rest of us aspire to experience as well. Christian or not, an individual who responds properly to broken dreams can achieve much. However, for Christ-committed followers, our brokenness can be used by God to achieve His greater plan, which is Christ-likeness in us. Unbelievers can be great leaders after being broken, but only those who belong to Jesus can be transformed into the kind of leader who can serve the Lord for an eternal purpose.

EXAMINE

Proverbs 4:23

Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

In leadership, everything rises and falls on the state of the leader's heart. If the person's heart is not right, everything else in his or her work shall go astray. But it is not easy to change or to make an impact in a person's heart. In fact, among the many areas of a person's life, the heart is the hardest to reach and develop.

1. Only God can truly _____ a person's heart

"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." 2 Samuel 16:7

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"

–Jeremiah 17:9 (ESV)

"The purpose in a man's heart is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out." -

Proverbs 20:5 (ESV)

"A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." –Luke 6:45 (NIV)

My Simple “Brokenometer”



(Answer never, rarely, sometimes, often, usually or always):

1. I complain when circumstances are unpleasant.
2. When I am corrected, I feel bad and/or try to justify myself.
3. I have a problem with anger
4. I resent it when I do not get recognition or credit for things I do right.
5. I react whenever my rights are violated.

WYSIWYG - What You See Is What You Get

2. Only God can truly _____ a person's heart

The Bible tells us that God knows all of our hearts. King Solomon said in I Kings 8:39 that God *"alone know the thoughts of the human heart (GNT)."* God alone has the key to the secret doors of our hearts. We may try our best to make a person have a change of heart, but in truth, only God can do it. We can rest in the truth that He who created our hearts also knows exactly how to fix it.

So how does God change a person's heart? It may follow this formula:

***God's Word + God's people + God's circumstances + Time
=Transformation of the heart.***

<i>God's Word</i>	<i>God's People</i>	<i>God's Circumstances</i>	<i>God's Time</i>	<i>HEART TRANSFORMATION</i>
<i>Listen and talk to God</i>	<i>Be accountable and vulnerable to people</i>	<i>Trust and obey</i>	<i>Wait</i>	

- God will use His **Word**. He will also use His **people**. Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so people can improve each other (NCV)." Then he will put you in a particular situation and after a given period of time, you will never be the **same** person again.
- Another dimension: it's not just negative circumstances but also the **goodness** of God . . .

Romans 2:4

Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?

2 Samuel 7:18 (NIV)

Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said: "Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?"

*²³ Can an Ethiopian change his skin or a leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil. **Jeremiah 13:23***

3. Broken People in the Bible

Two characters in the Bible experienced brokenness and as a result have been used mightily as great leaders.

- **MOSES:** During the first forty years of his life, Moses thought he was somebody. After all, he was a prince of Egypt. He thought he was the answer to the problems of the world. When he saw how the Israelites have been oppressed by the Egyptians that adopted him, he tried to deliver them in his own ways at his own time. He took matters into his own hands. Moses was still so full of himself. Actually, it is pride that prevented him from being used by God. God knew that Moses needed to be broken if he was to become useful in for God's purposes.

Exodus 2:11-15 (NLT)

Many years later, when Moses had grown up, he went out to visit his own people, the Hebrews, and he saw how hard they were forced to work. During his visit, he saw an Egyptian beating one of his fellow Hebrews.

¹²After looking in all directions to make sure no one was watching, Moses killed the Egyptian and hid the body in the sand.

¹³The next day, when Moses went out to visit his people again, he saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you beating up your friend?" Moses said to the one who had started the fight.

¹⁴The man replied, "Who appointed you to be our prince and judge? Are you going to kill me as you killed that Egyptian yesterday?" Then Moses was afraid, thinking, "Everyone knows what I did."

¹⁵And sure enough, Pharaoh heard what had happened, and he tried to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in the land of Midian. When Moses arrived in Midian, he sat down beside a well.

The Death of a _____

"Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh . . . ?"

"Now they may say to me . . . what shall I say to them?"

"What if they will not believe me or listen to what I say?"

"Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent . . ."

"Now send the message by whomever You will."

But it was also at this low point of his life that God found his heart ready to trust in Him and face the proud Pharaoh and the mighty Egyptian army.

- **APOSTLE PETER:** We all know Peter to always be that self-confident and outspoken apostle of Jesus. When Jesus said that all of His disciples are going to forsake Him, Peter swore never to betray Jesus and would even opt to die with Him (see Matthew 26:31-35).

Matthew 26:31-33 (NLT)

On the way, Jesus told them, "Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, 'God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

³²But after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there."

³³Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I will never desert you."

But we also knew what happened. Like the rest of the apostles, he also **abandoned** Jesus. As Jesus predicted, he denied Him thrice swearing that he had never known Jesus. Peter's point of brokenness left him crying painfully for failing to live up to what he promised to his Master (**Matt. 26:69-74**).

But Jesus called him again and restored him into the ministry. In **John 21:15-19**, it was to Peter that Jesus entrusted the charge of taking good care of His flock. Later on, Peter wrote to the elders of the churches of Christ . . .

1 Peter 5:6 (NIV)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time.

4. Brokenness is the secret to a

_____.

- You surrender your ambition, your desires, and you simply chose to **trust** God in all humility.

Galatians 1:10 (NIV)

Am I now trying to win the approval of men, or of God? Or am I trying to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.

God has some great promises for broken people:

Isaiah 57:15 (NCV)

*"And this is the reason: God lives forever and is holy.
He is high and lifted up.
He says, "I live in a high and holy place,
but I also live with people who are sad and humble.
I give new life to those who are humble
and to those whose hearts are broken."*

Conclusion

Broken people are **blessed** people. God is saying that He gives special attention to people who are broken, humble and contrite. These are the kinds of people God prefers to hang out with.

The ultimate example of brokenness is Jesus Himself. Remember these verses . . .

Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

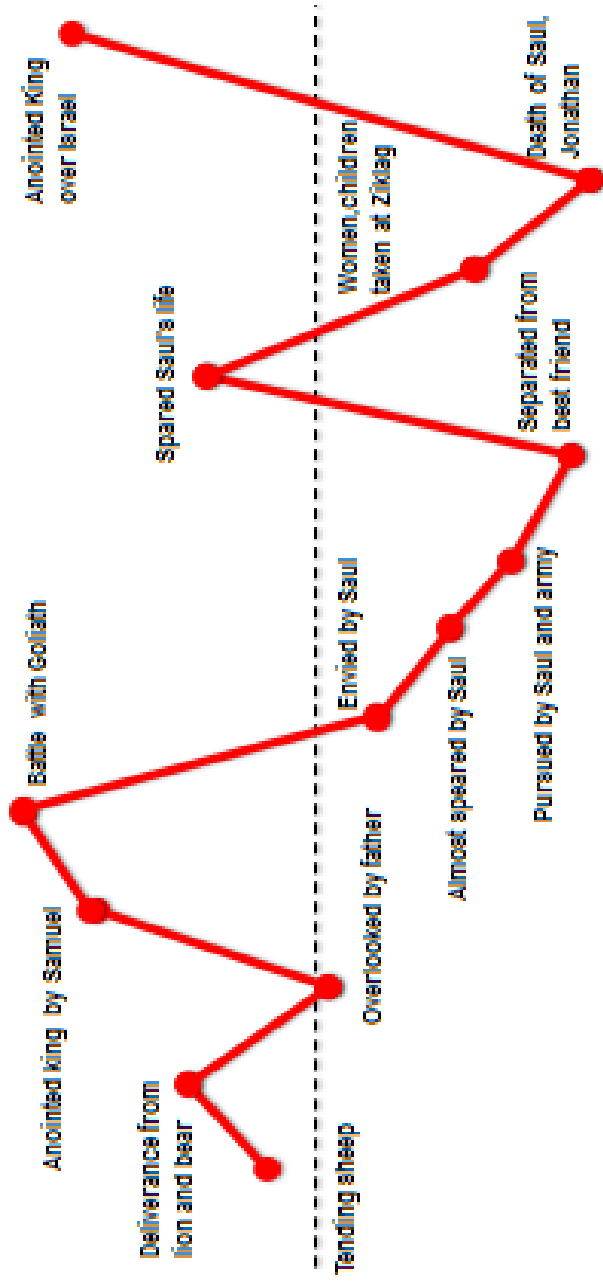
You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

⁶Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form,

⁸He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Exercise: "My Life Line"



GLC 3
A JOURNEY

EXPRESS

The Lord uses God's Word, his people, circumstances (often difficult ones) and time to transform our hearts. Look back in your own life and trace how God used all of the above to change you into more like Jesus. Create a timeline of your journey by plotting some of the major highlights and low points of your life along the vertical line (which represents time) in your worksheet. Mark your life events with the date and perhaps place where the event took place. You have 15 minutes to do this on your own. After which, maximize the next 30 minutes in your small group to share your timeline with one another.

My Timeline

My Highlights

Start the day
you accepted
Christ



My Low Points

EXPERIENCE

To be done on your own. No need for submission but please accomplish this exercise within one week as much as possible.

Preparing a Spiritual Autobiography

Your spiritual autobiography is your story from a spiritual perspective. Preparing and sharing your spiritual autobiography will be both a blessing to the others in your small group, as it will be a blessing to you as you remember the ways that God has been walking with you in your life. By preparing and sharing your spiritual autobiography, your group will be able to learn from your experiences and grow in their understanding of who you are and in community with you.

Start by thinking back over your life and recalling all of the moments (including difficult and traumatic ones) that impacted and formed you as a person and shaped your view of yourself and of God. As you do this, consider God's purpose for you in each of these moments. Write down your reflections and be ready to share these for about 20 minutes with your group/d12 . The following questions are merely guidelines for your reflections. You should include anything that is significant for you.

Early Childhood

Where were you born? What was it like growing up in your family? How large was your family? Did your parents work? What did they do? Did your parents and grandparents practice religion? Were there significant others who introduced you to God. How? How did your family observe religious holidays? How did you feel about them (joyful, fearful, angry, bored, or indifferent? Did you sense early on that you were deeply loved? What is your earliest remembrance of prayer and scripture? Were there any traumatic happenings at this time (deaths, moves, physical or emotional changes, abuse)?

Formative Teen Years

Were there any changes in your journey of faith at this time, including any religious experiences and meeting people of faith? Where were your deepest belongings (friends, family, school, church)? Did you have any heroes? Did religion influence your choice of vocation? Who were your role models? Were there any traumatic happenings at this time (deaths, moves, physical or emotional changes, etc.)?

Adult Years

What were the most significant spiritual turning points (salvation, baptism, joining church, marriage partner, death or other losses, vocation, moral choices)? What shaped your inner development and self-knowledge (therapy, readings, small groups, family participation, close friends)? Are compassion, justice and peace-making a vital expression of your faith? In what ways? What is the place of money in your life? Were there any traumatic happenings at this time (deaths, moves, physical or emotional changes, etc.)?

Present Time

Where are you on your inward journey? How vital is prayer to your life today? How important is Scripture to you now? What keeps your faith vibrant? What is the nature of your relationship with God (intimate, growing, dull, or distant)? Where are you on your outward journey or "call"? Where is God leading you? Are there any traumatic happenings going on at this time (Deaths, moves, physical or emotional changes, etc.)?

--Class notes from Dr. Henry Tan, faculty for CCF MAOL program.

Session 2

Characteristics of a Broken Leader

Objectives:

- *Enumerate* the characteristics of a broken leader
- *Examine* Bible passages that teach about brokenness
- *Reflect* on the state of one's heart and its disposition towards brokenness

EXPLORE

In groups of 3-5 members each, take turns sharing about your last week's assignment (**My Life Line**).

EXAMINE

Introduction

The kingdom of God is not only about doing God's work. It's also about being the person that God wants you to be and gaining the heart that He wants you to have (Ezekiel 36:26).

John 3:30

"He must increase, but I must decrease.

John 3:30 (NLT)

He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.

1. Broken leaders are not reactive.

Broken leaders, on the other hand, knew how to be patient and endure hard situations.

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

-1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV)

2. Broken leaders accept corrections.

There are leaders who seldom apologize, accept their faults, and say the word "I'm sorry." Some are even almost always defiant and defensive. People like these are often ready with a thousand reasons why their way is in the right and others are simply in the wrong. Still, there are those who are not only defensive, but also refuse to accept correction. But broken leaders know how to be humble and be corrected by others.

"Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'I appointed you king of Israel and saved you from Saul. I gave you his kingdom and his wives. And I made you king of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you even more. So why did you ignore the Lord's command? Why did you do what he says is wrong? You killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and took his wife to be your wife! Now there will always be people in your family who will die by a sword, because you did not respect me; you took the wife of Uriah the Hittite for yourself!' Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." -II Samuel 12:7-10, 13

3. Broken leaders do not respond in anger.

It is not uncommon to find leaders who have a bad temper and suffer from various 'anger-issues' in their lives. Now, there are many ways to show anger. Some may not shout or engage in verbal explosion. But they will give you a dreadfully cold silent treatment. Then, there are others who have mastered the art of non-verbal anger –'walking-out.' Of course, there is such thing as righteous anger like when Jesus entered the Temple and went about kicking tables to express the disdain that His Father feels towards those who made business out of religion. But what we are talking about here is selfish anger. It is that kind of anger that is not fueled by God's indignation for something evil but merely soothes one's ego.

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

- James 1:19-20 (ESV)

4. Broken leaders do not care who gets the credit.

People who have gone through brokenness in their lives don't mind if someone else gets the credit for something. Never mind if they are the one who conceptualized things, worked so hard for it, and later on someone else claims the reward. Broken leaders care little for popular recognition from people. They know that in the kingdom of God what matters is not what other people see they are doing, but what God sees in their hearts as they go about what they are doing. Broken leaders have an audience of one –God and Him alone. They thrive on grace not on praise.

*"Be careful! When you do good things, don't do them in front of people to be seen by them. If you do that, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. When you give to the poor, don't be like the hypocrites. They blow trumpets in the synagogues and on the streets so that people will see them and honor them. I tell you the truth, those hypocrites already have their full reward. So when you give to the poor, don't let anyone know what you are doing. Your giving should be done in secret. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you." -**Matthew 6:1-4***

5. Broken leaders have no problem surrendering their rights.

We often have rights that we treasure and we don't want to surrender. For some people, especially leaders, it is very hard to surrender certain 'rights' often accorded to them by people who follow them. They are the following:

- The right to be 'right'
- The right to be heard
- The right to be respected

But leaders who practice 'servant leadership' need to learn how not to insist on these rights. Servants/slaves don't have rights in the first place. Our Lord Jesus, himself, showed us in his life how He let go of his rights and instead lived like a servant. That is a most perfect picture of brokenness.

*"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."
-Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)*

6. Broken leaders focus on God's glory.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness." -Psalm 115:1

“God uses broken things. It takes broken soil to produce a crop, broken clouds to give rain, broken grain to give bread, broken bread to give strength. It is the broken alabaster box that gives forth perfume. It is Peter, weeping bitterly, who returns to greater power than ever. ” - Vance Havner

EXPRESS

In your discussion groups, truthfully share which characteristic of a broken leader you possess the least or struggle with the most. Which characteristic do you exhibit on a consistent basis?

EXPERIENCE

Think of creative ways by which you can pursue brokenness in your day to day living. How will you intentionally practice brokenness or humility in this area that you struggle with the most? What steps of faith will you take towards brokenness? Start with one or two characteristics this week and move on to the next one only after experiencing success in your action points for this week.

Remember that only the Lord can transform your heart, so praying for humility is the first step. Doing your part in practicing humility or brokenness in response to God's grace and in obedience to His commands is the next step.

Example of a faith action step:

"Broken leaders do not respond in anger."

"I will be patient with people and situations that normally trigger an angry reaction from me. I will train myself to be more patient by intentionally choosing the longest line at the check-out counter at the supermarket or allow the person behind me at the ATM line to go ahead and use the ATM before me."

My Faith Steps Worksheet

1. Broken leaders are not reactive.

My step of faith:

2. Broken leaders accept corrections

My step of faith:

3. Broken leaders do not respond in anger.

My step of faith:

4. Broken leaders do not care who gets the credit.

My step of faith:

5. Broken leaders have no problem surrendering their rights.

My step of faith:

6. Broken leaders focus on God's glory.

My step of faith:



NOTES



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