

# the **Broken** Way

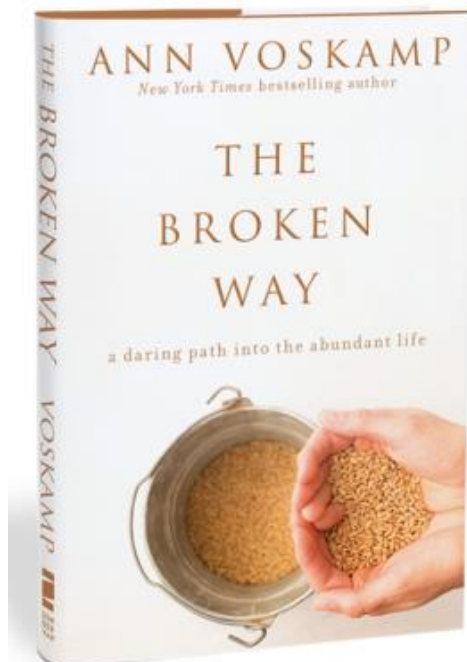
NCPC 2018 Lent Study

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Based on the book  
***THE BROKEN WAY:  
 A Daring Path into the  
 Abundant Life***  
 by Ann Voskamp  
 (Zondervan, 2016)



# Core Scripture

*Beginning the Lenten journey with the end in mind*

**Maundy Thursday (2018: March 29) ...**

Jesus with his disciples at the Last Supper...

Immediately before his arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection...

**Luke 22:19-20 (NIV)**

And he (Jesus) took bread, ***gave thanks*** and ***broke*** it, and ***gave*** it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

**Give thanks** – *Greek, eucharisteo* (you-kar-is-tay-oh), from which we get the word “eucharist,” meaning thanksgiving.

*eu* – good

*charis* – grace

*chara* – joy

**Broke** – *Greek, klao* (claw-oh)

**Gave** – *Greek, didomi* (did-owe-me)

# One. Broken. Life.

## Introduction

5 minutes

### Quick Quiet Question

*Use this space to write your answer to the question asked by the group leader.*

## Video Presentation featuring Ann Voskamp

~20 minutes

*Take notes following this outline; record words and images that grab your attention.*

**Living** unafraid of broken things

**Trusting** Christ to redeem the broken

**Learning** from Communion:

*Eucharisteo* (thanksgiving) always precedes the miracle. The miracle is in the *breaking* – Jesus breaks and gives the bread away.

**Broken** hearts let the love in

**Video Discussion**

10 minutes

1. What in the video moved you? Is there a quote or an image that stands out? Why?
2. What stories of brokenness did Ann share? What expressions of brokenness have you experienced personally or encountered in other people?
3. How might the church be a helpful place for broken people?
4. How might the church be a hurtful place for broken people?

Read John 12:20-29

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." John 12:23-24*

**Broken Into Abundance**

1. In what sense does a planted grain of wheat die in order to produce abundance?
2. How is this parable symbolic of Jesus' experience of brokenness in his death & resurrection?
3. Jesus' cross reminds us that new life can emerge from brokenness. Think of one current life situation that might look different in light of the cross. If you're willing, share this with the group.
4. How have you experienced – or how do you hope to experience – the power & presence of God in the very place of your brokenness?

Read this short passage of scripture, followed by a minute of silent reflection. Repeat up to 3 times.

*Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." John 12:23-24*

Compose a personal response to God's word, following the outline of Jesus' work of thanking, breaking, & giving. Consider writing in the form of a prayer.

**Grateful**

*In this word from God, what is there to be grateful for? How is God calling me to be thankful?*

**Broken**

*In this word from God, where is the connection to our brokenness? How is God calling me to confess and/or lament?<sup>1</sup>*

**Given**

*In this word from God, what gift is God giving me that I may in turn give to others. How is God calling me to receive and share?*

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<sup>1</sup> What's the difference between confession & lament? Confession is appropriate when the brokenness is sin – "I'm sorry, God." Lament is the cry from a broken heart, a response to human suffering – "Why, God?"... "How long, O Lord?"

**Weekly prayer practice**

1. Tear a small piece of paper from one of the sheets in the basket.
2. On your torn piece of paper, write down a word or phrase that represents ***brokenness in your life or in the world that you would like to lift up to the Lord.***
3. During the closing prayer, if you are willing, say aloud the word that you have written when prompted to do so.
4. After the prayer, place your pieces of paper in the basket. They will be used in a class art project: decorating a cross as a testimony to Christ's presence with us in our brokenness.

**Closing Prayer**

*(Read by one member of the class)*

“Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are with us this very moment by the Holy Spirit. We give you thanks that as you journeyed to the cross you took on our brokenness, meeting us in the midst of the mess in order to mend us and make us whole.

Hear now our words of brokenness that we offer to you for your help and healing:

*(If they choose to, each person reads their word or phrase aloud, then places it in the basket)*

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We trust that you will enter into our brokenness and transform it with the life-giving power of your love. Amen.”



## **This Week – Growing Deeper**

*A psalm & select quotes for continued meditation and reflection*

### **Psalm 109:22-23**

For I am poor and needy,  
and my heart is wounded within me.  
I fade away like an evening shadow;  
I am shaken off like a locust.

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### **Quotes of the Week**

*“Brokenness happens in a soul so that the power of God can happen in a soul.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

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*“The paradox of it breaks into me afresh: unless we die, unless we surrender, unless we sacrifice, we remain alone. Lonely. But if we die, if we surrender, if we sacrifice, that is when we experience the abundance, that is when we dance in communion. The life that yields the most—yields the most.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

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# Cruciform Living

## Introduction

5 minutes

### Quick Quiet Question

*Use this space to write your answer to the question asked by the group leader.*

## Video Presentation featuring Ann Voskamp

~20 minutes

*Take notes following this outline; record words and images that grab your attention.*

**Trusting** God to work through our brokenness

**Valuing** the time God has given us

**Living** as “Little Christs” (Martin Luther)

**Pouring** out our bucket lists – in giving we gain

**Video Discussion**

10 minutes

1. What in the video moved you? Is there a quote or an image that stands out? Why?
2. What opportunities do you have to meet the needs of the suffering around you by being a gift to others?
3. How might your experience of brokenness be a blessing to another person?
4. Why do you think performing acts of kindness benefits the giver both physically and mentally?

Read Mark 10:42-45

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45

**Life-giving Service**

1. What are some of the ways we “lord it over” others or demand to be served?
2. What is Jesus’ prescription for living a great life? In what ways does this affirm or challenge the values of our dominant culture?
3. Jesus’ cross reminds us that service & sacrifice are life-giving. Think of one thing you can do to serve a person with Christ’s love. If you’re willing, share this with the group.
4. What opportunities do you have to thank Jesus for giving His life for your salvation?

Read this short passage of scripture, followed by a minute of silent reflection. Repeat up to 3 times.

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45

Compose a personal response to God’s word, following the outline of Jesus’ work of thanking, breaking, & giving. Consider writing in the form of a prayer.

**Grateful**

*In this word from God, what is there to be grateful for? How is God calling me to be thankful?*

**Broken**

*In this word from God, where is the connection to our brokenness? How is God calling me to confess and/or lament?<sup>2</sup>*

**Given**

*In this word from God, what gift is God giving me that I may in turn give to others. How is God calling me to receive and share?*

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<sup>2</sup> What’s the difference between confession & lament? Confession is appropriate when the brokenness is sin – *“I’m sorry, God.”* Lament is the cry from a broken heart, a response to human suffering – *“Why, God?”... “How long, O Lord?”*

**Weekly prayer practice**

1. Tear a small piece of paper from one of the sheets in the basket.
2. On your torn piece of paper, write down a word or phrase that represents ***a form of brokenness in which you feel called to be a blessing to others.***
3. During the closing prayer, if you are willing, say aloud the word that you have written when prompted to do so.
4. After the prayer, place your pieces of paper in the basket. They will be used in a class art project: decorating a cross as a testimony to Christ's presence with us in our brokenness.

**Closing Prayer**

*(Read by one member of the class)*

“Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are with us this very moment by the Holy Spirit. We give you thanks that as you journeyed to the cross you took on our brokenness, meeting us in the midst of the mess in order to mend us and make us whole.

Hear now our words of brokenness that we offer to you for your help and healing, even as you call us to join you as agents of life-giving service:

*(If they choose to, each person reads their word or phrase aloud, then places it in the basket)*

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We trust that you will enter into our brokenness and transform it with the life-giving power of your love. Amen.”

## **This Week – Growing Deeper**

*A psalm & select quotes for continued meditation and reflection*

### **Psalm 86:1-3**

Hear me, Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.  
Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.  
You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord,  
for I call to you all day long.

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### **Quotes of the Week**

*“Maybe there’s no such thing as a small act of giving. Every small gift of grace creates a love quake that has no logical end. It will go to the ends of the earth and change the world and then it will break through time and run on into eternity.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in [The Broken Way](#)

*“There is no life worth living without generosity because generosity is a function of abundance mentality. And abundance mentality is a function of identity and intimacy. When you know you are loved enough, that you are made enough, you have abundantly enough to generously give enough. And that moves you into the enoughness of an even more intimate communion.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in [The Broken Way](#)

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# Open-Handed Humility

## Introduction

5 minutes

### Quick Quiet Question

*Use this space to write your answer to the question asked by the group leader.*

## Video Presentation featuring Ann Voskamp

~20 minutes

*Take notes following this outline; record words and images that grab your attention.*

**Taking** the risk of receiving love

**Receiving** from God in order to give



**Anchoring** to our identity in Christ

**Refuting** the lies that deny God's love

**Video Discussion**

10 minutes

1. What in the video moved you? Is there a quote or an image that stands out? Why?
2. Why do you think knowing our identity in Christ is so important to growing in intimacy with Christ?
3. What is your experience with the concept of "enough?" Why is it so difficult to believe that we have enough or are enough?
4. What practices help you to remember that God's love is unconditional?

Read John 8:2-11

*“Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’”* John 8:10-11

**Clear of Condemnation**

1. How easy or difficult is it for you to identify with the woman caught in adultery? Why?
2. How have you experienced – or seen another person experience – condemnation from others because of brokenness, sinful or otherwise?
3. Why is it important that Jesus releases her from condemnation before calling her to leave her life of sin?
4. Where do we get the idea that we have to fix or clean up our lives before Jesus meets us in our brokenness?

Read this short passage of scripture, followed by a minute of silent reflection. Repeat up to 3 times.

*“Jesus straightened up and asked her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ ‘No one, sir,’ she said. ‘Then neither do I condemn you,’ Jesus declared. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’” John 8:10-11*

Compose a personal response to God’s word, following the outline of Jesus’ work of thanking, breaking, & giving. Consider writing in the form of a prayer.

**Grateful**

*In this word from God, what is there to be grateful for? How is God calling me to be thankful?*

**Broken**

*In this word from God, where is the connection to our brokenness? How is God calling me to confess and/or lament?<sup>3</sup>*

**Given**

*In this word from God, what gift is God giving me that I may in turn give to others. How is God calling me to receive and share?*

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<sup>3</sup> What’s the difference between confession & lament? Confession is appropriate when the brokenness is sin – “I’m sorry, God.” Lament is the cry from a broken heart, a response to human suffering – “Why, God?”... “How long, O Lord?”

**Weekly prayer practice**

1. Tear a small piece of paper from one of the sheets in the basket.
2. On your torn piece of paper, write down a word or phrase that represents ***an aspect of your identity in Christ that affirms you in the midst of your brokenness.***
3. During the closing prayer, if you are willing, say aloud the word that you have written when prompted to do so.
4. After the prayer, place your pieces of paper in the basket. They will be used in a class art project: decorating a cross as a testimony to Christ's presence with us in our brokenness.

**Closing Prayer**

*(Read by one member of the class)*

“Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are with us this very moment by the Holy Spirit. We give you thanks that as you journeyed to the cross you took on our brokenness, meeting us in the midst of the mess in order to mend us and make us whole.

Hear now our words of gratitude for meeting us and affirming us in Christ in the midst of our brokenness:

*(If they choose to, each person reads their word or phrase aloud, then places it in the basket)*

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We trust that you will enter into our brokenness and transform it with the life-giving power of your love. Amen.”

## **This Week – Growing Deeper**

*A psalm & select quotes for continued meditation and reflection*

### **Psalm 40:1-2**

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.  
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.

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### **Quotes of the Week**

*“You aren’t your yesterday, you aren’t your messes, you aren’t your failures, you aren’t your brokenness. You are brave enough for today, because He is. You are strong enough for what’s coming, because He is. And you are enough for all that is, because He always is.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

*“Letting yourself be loved is an act of terrifying vulnerability and surrender. Letting yourself be loved is its own kind of givenness. Letting yourself be loved gives you over to someone’s mercy and leaves you trusting that they will keep loving you, that they will love you the way you want to be loved, that they won’t break your given heart.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

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# Koinonia Community

## Introduction

5 minutes

### Quick Quiet Question

*Use this space to write your answer to the question asked by the group leader.*

## Video Presentation featuring Ann Voskamp

~20 minutes

*Take notes following this outline; record words and images that grab your attention.*

**Living** free of regret for what won't ever be

**Trusting** in our untouchable worth in Christ

## **Becoming** real

### **Video Discussion**

10 minutes

1. What in the video moved you? Is there a quote or an image that stands out? Why?
2. What is your experience with regret? How does the Apostle Paul's testimony in Philippians 3:13-14 relate to living with regrets of brokenness?
3. How might feeling like you're losing pieces of yourself in brokenness actually be a constructive part of God's work in your life?
4. How are you embracing suffering in your life right now?

Read Mark 8:34-38

*“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.’”* Mark 8:34-35

**Life-saving Self-sacrifice**

1. What makes self-denial so difficult?
2. Why does Jesus call his followers to “take up their cross” and “lose their life?”
3. Jesus’ cross reminds us that new life comes through self-sacrificial love. Think of one current life situation that might look different if you “denied yourself” and “took up your cross?” If you’re willing, share this with the group.
4. How could self-sacrifice be the way to discovering true life or preserving your true self?



Read this short passage of scripture, followed by a minute of silent reflection. Repeat up to 3 times.

*“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it.’” Mark 8:34-35*

Compose a personal response to God’s word, following the outline of Jesus’ work of thanking, breaking, & giving. Consider writing in the form of a prayer.

**Grateful**

*In this word from God, what is there to be grateful for? How is God calling me to be thankful?*

**Broken**

*In this word from God, where is the connection to our brokenness? How is God calling me to confess and/or lament?<sup>4</sup>*

**Given**

*In this word from God, what gift is God giving me that I may in turn give to others. How is God calling me to receive and share?*

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<sup>4</sup> What’s the difference between confession & lament? Confession is appropriate when the brokenness is sin – “I’m sorry, God.” Lament is the cry from a broken heart, a response to human suffering – “Why, God?”... “How long, O Lord?”

**Weekly prayer practice**

1. Tear a small piece of paper from one of the sheets in the basket.
2. On your torn piece of paper, write down a word or phrase that represents ***an area of life in which God is calling you to sacrifice for others in Christ-like love.***
3. During the closing prayer, if you are willing, say aloud the word that you have written when prompted to do so.
4. After the prayer, place your pieces of paper in the basket. They will be used in a class art project: decorating a cross as a testimony to Christ's presence with us in our brokenness.

**Closing Prayer**

*(Read by one member of the class)*

“Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are with us this very moment by the Holy Spirit. We give you thanks that as you journeyed to the cross you took on our brokenness, meeting us in the midst of the mess in order to mend us and make us whole.

Hear now our words of commitment to follow you in self-sacrificial love:

*(If they choose to, each person reads their word or phrase aloud, then places it in the basket)*

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We trust that you will enter into our brokenness and empower us to sacrifice in order to share your love with others. Amen.”

## **This Week – Growing Deeper**

*A psalm & select quotes for continued meditation and reflection*

### **Psalm 25:4-5**

Show me your ways, Lord,  
teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.

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### **Quotes of the Week**

*“What seems to be undoing you can ultimately remake you. What if the deeper you know your own brokenness, the deeper you can experience your own belovedness? I wonder if this is the refrain of the believing life: I fall because I am broken . . . but I always rise because I am always beloved . . . ?”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

*“This is the thing: the prosecutor of your soul can’t ever nail you. Time can’t wreck your life. You can’t wreck your life. Nothing in all this world can separate you from the love of Christ, and His love is your life. Your life is unwreckable. Because Christ’s love is unstoppable.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

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# The Truth of Inconvenience

## Introduction

5 minutes

### Quick Quiet Question

*Use this space to write your answer to the question asked by the group leader.*

## Video Presentation featuring Ann Voskamp

~20 minutes

*Take notes following this outline; record words and images that grab your attention.*

**Risking** discomfort in being God's gift to the broken

**Embracing** others' brokenness as Christ does

**Making** room at our tables

**Helping** especially when it's inconvenient

**Video Discussion**

10 minutes

1. What in the video moved you? Is there a quote or an image that stands out? Why?
2. How do you deal with inconvenience?
3. Why do you think opportunities for serving and helping others are rarely convenient?
4. How would your life be different if you thought of every interruption as an appearance of Christ or an invitation to enter into His sufferings?

Read Luke 14:12-14

*Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:12-14*

### **Beyond Convenience with Christ**

1. What is Jesus telling his followers to do in this passage? Why?
2. How much of your time is spent with friends, family, and close neighbors? What are some of your favorite activities to share?
3. Do you have family, friends, or neighbors who might be classified as poor, crippled, lame, or blind? Explain.
4. How does your church help you follow Jesus’ invitation? How might it do this more fully?

Read this short passage of scripture, followed by a minute of silent reflection. Repeat up to 3 times.

*Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” Luke 14:12-14*

Compose a personal response to God’s word, following the outline of Jesus’ work of thanking, breaking, & giving. Consider writing in the form of a prayer.

**Grateful**

*In this word from God, what is there to be grateful for? How is God calling me to be thankful?*

**Broken**

*In this word from God, where is the connection to our brokenness? How is God calling me to confess and/or lament?<sup>5</sup>*

**Given**

*In this word from God, what gift is God giving me that I may in turn give to others. How is God calling me to receive and share?*

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<sup>5</sup> What’s the difference between confession & lament? Confession is appropriate when the brokenness is sin – “I’m sorry, God.” Lament is the cry from a broken heart, a response to human suffering – “Why, God?”... “How long, O Lord?”

**Weekly prayer practice**

1. Tear a small piece of paper from one of the sheets in the basket.
2. On your torn piece of paper, write down a word or phrase that represents ***a situation or a person where Christ may be calling you into inconvenience of others' brokenness.***
3. During the closing prayer, if you are willing, say aloud the word that you have written when prompted to do so.
4. After the prayer, place your pieces of paper in the basket. They will be used in a class art project: decorating a cross as a testimony to Christ's presence with us in our brokenness.

**Closing Prayer**

*(Read by one member of the class)*

“Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are with us this very moment by the Holy Spirit. We give you thanks that as you journeyed to the cross you took on our brokenness, meeting us in the midst of the mess in order to mend us and make us whole.

Hear now our words offering to you our sense of inconvenience as you call us to respond to the brokenness in our midst:

*(If they choose to, each person reads their word or phrase aloud, then places it in the basket)*

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We trust that you will enter into our brokenness and transform it with the life-giving power of your love. Amen.”



## **This Week – Growing Deeper**

*A scripture & select quotes for continued meditation and reflection*

### **Luke 6:38**

*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*

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### **Quotes of the Week**

*“Love of strangers—wasn’t that the direct, exact translation of the word for hospitality in Scripture, philoxenia? Philos—brotherly love; xenia—the stranger. Love the stranger like a brother. Biblical hospitality is about inviting strangers in, not just the neighbors.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

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*“Love is the willingness to be interrupted. Interrupt comes from the Latin word interrumpere, meaning “break into.” Love is the willingness to be broken into. There are never interruptions in a day—only manifestations of Christ.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in The Broken Way

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# One. Suffering. Savior.

## **Introduction**

5 minutes

Quick Quiet Question

*Use this space to write your answer to the question asked by the group leader.*

## **Video Presentation featuring Ann Voskamp**

~20 minutes

*Take notes following this outline; record words and images that grab your attention.*

**Being** honest about our insecurities

**Opening** up our anxious hearts

## **Creating** communities around suffering

### **Video Discussion**

10 minutes

1. What in the video moved you? Is there a quote or an image that stands out? Why?
2. What stories of anxieties or insecurity did Ann share? Have you ever felt similar feelings?
3. What is it like to hear others share about their brokenness? What attitudes might help you be more at ease in this situation?
4. Have you ever been a part of creating a community around suffering? Why might “community” be a more helpful response to suffering than an “explanation?”

Read Romans 5:3-5

*Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Rom. 5:3-5*

### **Shaped through Suffering**

1. What moments do you think of as “glorious?”
2. Why are we encouraged to glory in our sufferings?
3. How have your sufferings shaped you into the person God wants you to be?
4. How are you experiencing the Holy Spirit's outpouring of God's love in your heart? How does this fuel your hopefulness in the face of brokenness?

## Communion Conversation

10 minutes

Read this short passage of scripture, followed by a minute of silent reflection. Repeat up to 3 times.

*Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. Rom. 5:3-5*

Compose a personal response to God's word, following the outline of Jesus' work of thanking, breaking, & giving. Consider writing in the form of a prayer.

### **Grateful**

*In this word from God, what is there to be grateful for? How is God calling me to be thankful?*

### **Broken**

*In this word from God, where is the connection to our brokenness? How is God calling me to confess and/or lament?<sup>6</sup>*

### **Given**

*In this word from God, what gift is God giving me that I may in turn give to others. How is God calling me to receive and share?*

## Closing Activity & Prayer

5 minutes

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<sup>6</sup> What's the difference between confession & lament? Confession is appropriate when the brokenness is sin – "I'm sorry, God." Lament is the cry from a broken heart, a response to human suffering – "Why, God?"... "How long, O Lord?"

## **Weekly prayer practice**

5. Tear a small piece of paper from one of the sheets in the basket.
6. On your torn piece of paper, write down a word or phrase that represents ***an area of suffering that you might gather community around.***
7. During the closing prayer, if you are willing, say aloud the word that you have written when prompted to do so.
8. After the prayer, place your pieces of paper in the basket. They will be used in a class art project: decorating a cross as a testimony to Christ's presence with us in our brokenness.

## **Closing Prayer**

*(Read by one member of the class)*

“Lord Jesus, we recognize that you are with us this very moment by the Holy Spirit. We give you thanks that as you journeyed to the cross you took on our brokenness, meeting us in the midst of the mess in order to mend us and make us whole.

Hear now our words offered to you as we hear your call to create communities of suffering:

*(If they choose to, each person reads their word or phrase aloud, then places it in the basket)*

Thank you for hearing our prayers. We trust that you will enter into our brokenness and transform it with the life-giving power of your love. Amen.”

## **This Week – Growing Deeper**

*A psalm & select quotes for continued meditation and reflection*

### **Psalm 36:7-9**

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
They feast on the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.  
For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

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### **Quotes of the Week**

*“Suffering is not a problem that needs a solution as much as it’s an experience that needs compassion.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in [The Broken Way](#)

*“Why not embrace the life work of embracing suffering, embracing brokenness? Why avoid the gift of more God, more vulnerability, more intimacy, more communion—the gifts that brokenheartedness offers? Why had I found that terrifying to incarnate? Suffering is a call for presence; it’s a call for us to be present—not only to the brokenness in the world, but to the brokenness in our own soul, and to risk trusting others with our wounds.”*

- Ann Voskamp, in [The Broken Way](#)

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