



BROKEN: SERVICE

SESSION SEVEN | NOVEMBER 8 & 9

Last week we focused on the process of growth in Christ and the development of Christ's character in us through the process called "sanctification." When we surrender ourselves to God's love and care, and when we trust that God knows what is best for our lives, we open ourselves up to be transformed into God's character and we grow in the Fruit of the Spirit.

This week we look to a final stage in our crises. This stage can be the culmination of God's work in us when having learned from our struggles; we in turn have the opportunity to help others in their struggles. This can be especially powerful when we are in a position to offer hope and comfort to someone who is now in the place where we once were.

We will focus on the sermon's **"Four Ways Pain and Trials Can Help Us Grow."**

Watch the Video Summary of This Week's Sermon at www.christchurchil.org/broken under the Study Guide tab

Begin the group time by taking a few minutes and writing down the four most painful experiences in your life. (We will refer to this again in the study and at the end.)

My four most painful experiences were...



QUESTIONS FROM THE SERMON

Pain can help us grow closer to God.

1. Choose one of your "four most painful experiences" and share how it impacted or changed you. What was the impact this experience had on your relationship with God?
2. What is the value of prayer in hard times (i.e. why should we do it)? What prompts your prayer or what holds you back? Talk honestly about the role prayer has played in helping you endure.

Pain can help us grow closer to others.

3. Have any of your "four most painful experiences" helped you recognize your dependence on others? Were people there for you during that (those) experience(s)? How do you feel when you need the help and support of others?

Pain can help us grow more like Jesus.

4. What does it mean when Mike says, "God is more concerned with our character than our comfort"? Read Hebrews 5:8. How does this verse help us shape our expectations better?

Pain can help us serve others in similar pain.

5. Read 2 Corinthians 1:4-6 and circle the occurrences of the word "comfort". Take a moment in the group to draw a diagram of the "comfort process" and share it with one another. How does comfort work best?
6. Considering the "comfort process" above, look back at your "four most painful experiences". Who do you know that is going through a similar experience to each of the experiences you had? What is a next step you could take to reach out and serve them? How could the group help you follow through on that goal?

During the service, Mike paused to allow those who were facing challenges right now to receive prayer. Save extra time in order to allow the members of the group to pray for one another this week. Practice serving each other by voicing our concerns to God. When we pray for the concerns of others, this is called interceding.