



BROKEN: SORROW

SESSION TWO | OCTOBER 4 & 5

Last week we noted that some of the challenges we will face will send us into shock. We also talked about ways to help our friends when they find themselves in extreme distress (Show Up, Shut Up, Serve). For some, big and vexing challenges are already upon us. For others, our current assignment is to build friendships and care for others. All of us stand ready for the time when life stops working and our faith is tested.

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

This week we discuss the sermon on sorrow and the reading on faith.

What do you think about Mike's "5 Critical Questions?" Who am I? Where did I come from? What is expected of me? What is of ultimate importance? What happens when I die? Do you have answers for some of these?



QUESTIONS | BOOK 2 (CHAPTERS 1-3)

1. Do you agree with the statement that everyone has faith? Why or why not? What do you think is the most important thing about a person's faith?
2. What do you find most appealing about the "Elephant Parable?" (see Wikipedia: "Six blind men and the elephant" for the parable) In what ways is the Elephant parable misleading?
3. Pages 51-57 explore Jesus as the basis for affirming the Christian faith. Which of the "arguments" for Jesus did you find most persuasive? Are there some that you disagreed with?



APPLYING THE SERMON: SORROW

1. Read Isaiah 53:1-7. These words – written hundreds of years before Christ was born or crucifixion was practiced – are understood to be a prophetic description of the Messiah. How does this impact your view of Jesus? How does an understanding that he was "acquainted with sorrow" affect you? (Consider further: John 11:35; Matthew 5:4; Luke 19:41-44). What is the cause of Jesus' emotion and sorrow?
2. If/when you are experiencing deep grief, who would you talk to, turn to and rely on to help you move through the grief? Are there areas of grief in your life or past that are seeking attention?
3. Read Psalm 22 together. What is good about David's approach to sharing his grief with God? What expressions strike you as particularly honest? Do you think this is the right way to talk with God? How could reading the psalms of lament strengthen or grow the depth of your relationship with God as you face your own challenges?

This could be a good week to share with each other about some area of past or current grief that you would like the group to help you bring in front of God while inviting him to comfort and work in your life.