

TALKING POINTS

STRETCH - OWN YOUR STORY

LEANING IN

We live in a "throwaway" culture - we don't like "broken" - when something breaks, we simply throw it away and move on.

However, when you look at the life of Jesus, He spent a significant amount of time around the broken. He focused on helping change the way people think about God & others - *especially* when it came to the broken.

Many in Jesus's day made the focus all about the *outside* - "You need to keep up appearances". Jesus says, "NO - it's what's on the *inside* which really matters, because what's on the inside will eventually come out.

Read Matthew 5:2-12, 1 Samuel 16:7

Have you ever found yourself trapped in an appearance you were trying to maintain?

LIVING IT OUT

Though our culture would incline us to disregard the broken, we are called to have a "Jesus Culture" and accept both our own brokenness and that of others. Here are five keys to having Jesus' view of the broken:

When Jesus Sees Broken, He Sees Beautiful - we can often have a disdain for broken things (and even broken people). Jesus sees our brokenness through the lens of love and compassion.

Read Hebrews 4:15-16

Where is it more difficult to see "broken as beautiful" - in others, or yourself?

If You Want To Be Made Whole, You Must First Be Broken - God uses the broken in the most powerful ways. In fact, our brokenness is our *opportunity* to rely on Him.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Why does God work most powerfully in us when we're not strong?

Everyone Is Broken - if there's one certainty about the world we live in, it's everyone is broken. No matter how we may make things appear, we *all* struggle. Fortunately, Jesus knows the truth about us, and loves us through it.

Read Psalms 103:13-14

If it's true everyone is broken (despite appearances), how does this affect how we see and treat them?

We Feel We Need To Be Filtered To Be Accepted - in our culture, we've all become masters of "hide and seek". We hide our brokenness by numbing it, denying it. We're afraid to be really *seen* - yet it is exactly what we need.

Read Jeremiah 23:24

In the times of your life where you've "hidden", what motivated you? What motivates you to *not* hide now?

God Is Not Going To Have A Relationship With The Person You're Pretending To Be - the only way to experience the real love of God is to be the *real you*. That's who God created. That's who God loves.

Read Luke 8:9-14

How does knowing God sees you for who you truly are inside make you feel?