

I'M BROKEN

HOW TO HEAL HIDDEN PAIN

Michael Cason
Wk: 1

General:

- How do you typically respond to the question 'How are you?' Is it difficult for you to give the real answer instead of just 'I'm okay'?
- Pastor Michael defined grief as "living in the gap between what you hoped God would do and what actually happened." How does that definition reshape the way you think about grief?
- When asked: 'What are you grieving?' what immediately came to mind? Why do you think that surfaced?
- In verse 4, Jesus says Lazarus' sickness "will not end in death," yet Lazarus still dies. Why do you think that is? What does this teach us about trusting God's perspective when it differs from our own?
- Why do you think Jesus stayed for two more days, instead of going immediately to heal Lazarus? Why do you think God sometimes seems to delay when we're asking Him to act?
- Pastor Michael reminded us that there is nothing we will ever face that Jesus has not already overcome. How does that truth change the way we face seasons of grief or suffering?
- Like Mary and Martha, have you ever had a "Lord, if you would have been here..." type of moment? What did you do? What did that experience teach you?
- Pastor Michael stated that there is a part of Mary and Martha in each of us. Which sister do you identify with more, and why?
- What is the significance of Jesus weeping in verse 35? What does this reveal about the humanity of Jesus?
- What does the miracle of raising Lazarus reveal about the divinity of Jesus?

- **Take Home 1: God uses our grief to deepen our trust in Him**

- When you go through pain, difficulty, or suffering, what do you find your trust rooted in?
- Do you think faith and grief can coexist? Why do you think many Christians struggle to believe they can?
- “We've made the work of the cross an afterthought to our current circumstances.” How can we keep the hope of the gospel in view when our circumstances feel overwhelming?
- Take a moment to reflect. Have you ever seen God use a season of grief to shape your character or deepen your relationship with Him?

Take Home 2: True healing begins when we commit to not grieving alone (Jn. 11:32)

- Who truly knows the extent of your grief? What makes it difficult to invite others into that part of your life?
- How can the church become a place where people feel safe enough to grieve honestly instead of pretending they're okay?
- Is there anyone in your life who may be grieving silently? What is one practical way you could come alongside them this week?

Take Home 3: God uses grief to fix our eyes on the hope we have in Him (Jn. 11:26)

- As followers of Jesus, how does the promise of resurrection shape the way we grieve differently from those who have no hope?
- If Jesus asked you, “...Do you believe this?” how would you respond?
- What's one way you can intentionally anchor your hope in Jesus this week, even if your circumstances don't change?