



Brokenness

Aim: To consider stories of brokenness in our own lives and in our community and see God's response to brokenness.

Outcomes:

Participants will be able to see that Jesus can relate to our brokenness and can help us in every situation.

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Icebreaker:

- ◆ What is your favourite chocolate bar/chocolate out of a box?
- ◆ If you were a chocolate which would you be and why?

One of the participants came in obviously distressed so the start was more focused on supporting her. However this helped lead us into the idea of brokenness.

Unlocking life experience:

Make chocolate truffles during discussions. You will need: Double Stuffed Oreos, cream cheese, chocolate to melt, greaseproof paper, small bun cases

- Crush the Oreos in a bowl while sharing stories of brokenness.
- Do you have a story of brokenness in your own life that you are willing to share with the group?
- Save some crushed Oreos for decoration later.
- Do you see brokenness in our community?
- Mash crushed Oreos with cream cheese until combined.
- What answers have you found for brokenness in your life?
- Roll mixture into balls and place on greaseproof paper.
- What answers do you see for brokenness in our community?
- Put the truffles in the freezer if possible for 15 minutes.
- Clear up and serve refreshments.

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As the cooking activity was simpler than some others we have done it was easier to have the conversations at the same time. A lot of the 'broken' stories involved broken families. They shared how they support each other or that sometimes you have to stand up for yourself.

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ:

Tell the story either using the video

<https://vimeo.com/84448775>

Or the text on page 3



John 11:17- 43 Good News Translation (GNT)

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, He found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Judeans had come to see Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother's death.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him, but Mary stayed in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "If You had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died!

²² But I know that even now God will give You whatever You ask Him for."

²³ "Your brother will rise to life," Jesus told her.

²⁴ "I know," she replied, "that he will rise to life on the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in Me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and those who live and believe in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord!" she answered. "I do believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ After Martha said this, she went back and called her sister Mary privately. "The Teacher is here," she told her, "and is asking for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up and hurried out to meet Him. (³⁰ Jesus had not yet arrived in the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met Him.) ³¹ The people who were in the house with Mary comforting her followed her when they saw her get up and hurry out. They thought that she was going to the grave to weep there.

³² Mary arrived where Jesus was, and as soon as she saw Him, she fell at His feet. "Lord," she said, "if You had been here, my brother would not have died!"

³³ Jesus saw her weeping, and He saw how the people with her were weeping also; His heart was touched, and He was deeply moved. ³⁴ "Where have you buried Him?" He asked them.

"Come and see, Lord," they answered.

³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ "See how much He loved him!" the people said.

³⁷ But some of them said, "He gave sight to the blind man, didn't He? Could He not have kept Lazarus from dying?"

Lazarus Is Brought to Life

³⁸ Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance. ³⁹ "Take the stone away!" Jesus ordered.

Martha, the dead man's sister, answered, "There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!"

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?"

⁴¹ They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said, "I thank You, Father, that You listen to Me. ⁴² I know that You always listen to Me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ After He had said this, He called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave cloths, and with a cloth around his face. "Untie him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in Him.



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Releasing Life Changing Skills and Confidence:

Questions for discussion:

- Can you see connections between our stories and the Bible story?
- Where do you see brokenness in the story?
- Who is broken?

I think the group found the story a bit too long and lost concentration. We read it while having brews and a biscuit.

Continuing Reflective Cycles:

Further questions:

- Does our story today help you think about brokenness in a different way?
- How will you respond to brokenness in your life?
- How will you respond to brokenness in our community?

Activity:

- ◆ Melt chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water.
- ◆ Take truffles out of freezer and coat with the chocolate.
- ◆ Place in the bun cases and decorate with the saved crushed Oreos.
- ◆ Refrigerate and enjoy.

**Outline Developed by Alison Adlum:
Unlock Burnley**

