

THE  
Art  
OF BEING  
BROKEN

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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## THE ART OF BEING BROKEN DISCUSSION GUIDE

*The Art of Being Broken* is a one-way conversation that's intended to open the door to more. While it's not needed (unless you need it), this discussion guide can help to shape a small-group conversation as you read through the book together. There are six questions that go along with each chapter. Don't feel bound by them, but use them as a jumping off place for your discussion. What comes out of it is up to you. It's my hope that as you come together and talk openly, you'll see a glimpse of God weaving the broken threads of your life together into an incredible tapestry.

If you've never had a "small-group" before, I'd like to offer a few bits of advice as you start. **First**, have food. Food makes everything better. Not that you're supposed to eat your feelings, but somehow expressing them is easier over food. **Second**, make a promise to each other. This group needs to be a safe place to open up. While I believe that you all will find yourselves able to share their story of beautiful brokenness with the world someday, it's each person's own story to share—not anyone else's. Everyone needs to understand as you move forward. **Third**, pray together. Open with prayer. Close with prayer. It doesn't have to be fancy; it's just inviting God to be part of the conversation, and thanking him for being there. I guarantee you, he wants to speak into your brokenness, and he'll have some profound things to say!

So dig in. Eat. Pray. Ask easy questions. Ask hard questions. Talk. Pray.

I'm praying for you.

Peace,

Aaron

# 1

## Fine

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1. Why do we care so much what other people think of us?
2. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you?  
Why?
3. What are some ways that you see people covering up pain or brokenness?
4. Would you agree with the statement that Christians are afraid to appear broken? Why or why not?
5. What do you think it would look like if someone decided to live without masks?
6. Is there a mask that you want to take off today?

## 2

### **Broken Things Are Broken**

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1. Have you ever gotten into a fight with someone on the internet?
2. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
3. Would you agree with the statement that everyone is wounded? Why or why not?
4. What is something that other people would be surprised that you feel insecure about?
5. When you think of something not working quite right in your life, what comes to mind first?
6. Have you ever ignored the warning signs of a little problem and had it become a big problem?

# 3

## **This Is Not How I Left It**

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1. Have you ever been sold something you didn't need? How did it happen?
2. What do you think it was like for Adam and Eve to be with God before sin?
3. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
4. Why do you think we feel the need to hide from God?
5. Would you agree with the statement that God made us for relationship with him? Why or why not?
6. Has your life ever felt like a puzzle that you're putting together without a picture?

# 4

## **Life In A Nutshell**

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1. What did you want to be when you were a kid?
2. What is the most extreme thing you've ever done?
3. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you?  
Why?
4. What are some of the "I'm not..."s that define who you are?
5. Would you agree with the statement that we reject God's love because we feel like we know better? Why or why not?
6. Do you ever feel like you're holding yourself back from living?

# 5

## Earthquake

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1. Have you ever pretended to know or understand something when you really didn't?
2. What are some of the '*Us vs. Them*'s that you've felt in your life?
3. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
4. Have you ever been involved in the aftermath of a natural disaster?
5. Would you agree with the statement that God causes tragedy? Why or why not?
6. Have you ever experienced disaster in your life? How?

# 6

## Celestial Navigation

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1. Have you ever felt lost?
2. What do you think that God's plan for your life looks like?
3. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
4. What things do you center your life around?
5. Would you agree with the statement that most Christians live their lives "in the weeds?" Why or why not?
6. What are you afraid of?

# 7

## **My Sacrifice, O God**

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1. If you could pick one person from history to have tea with, who would it be and why?
2. Would you agree with the statement that good examples are annoying or intimidating? Why or why not?
3. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
4. Do you ever feel like God is unfair? How?
5. Do you ever feel like you just can't live up to what God has asked of you?
6. Have you ever felt like you were too far gone for God to want you anymore? Expand if you're willing.

# 8

## **Broken Before God**

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1. Have you ever sent or found a message in a bottle?
2. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you?  
Why?
3. Have you ever experienced a “Me Too” moment? When?
4. Do you ever have trouble asking for help? Why do you think that is?
5. Do you feel the need to be perfect?
6. Would you agree with the statement that God uses our brokenness to reach the world? Why or why not?

# 9

## Who Told You That You Were Naked?

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1. If someone was to identify you as being part of a stereotypical group, what would it be?
2. Would you agree with the statement that it's hard to recognize the image of God in each other? Why or why not?
3. What do you imagine that Adam and Eve felt when they first heard God's voice after they'd eaten the fruit?
4. Have you ever felt like you were "putting on" a personality or image for people? How?
5. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
6. Do you feel like you've put on "the clothing of Christ?" What does that mean to you?

# 10

## Bent and Broken and Light

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1. Did you have a favorite childhood toy? What was it?
2. Would you agree with the statement that the world generally perceives Christians to be fakers? Why or why not?
3. How should Christians handle areas of their lives that are “less than perfect?”
4. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
5. Do you feel comfortable wearing your flaws on your sleeve?
6. What is one area of your life that God is working? What’s an area that you *want* to see God working?

# 11

## Letting Go

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1. What is the best gift you've ever given?
2. What's the most meaningful gift you've ever gotten? Why did it mean so much to you?
3. Would you agree with the statement that worship requires sacrifice? Why or why not?
4. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
5. Do you think it's easier to point out other people's flaws than to deal with our own? Why?
6. Is there an area of brokenness in your life that you're holding back from God? Will you share it?

# 12

## **Kintsugi**

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1. What is the furthest away you've ever travelled from home?
2. Are there any sounds or smells that trigger negative reactions from you?  
What and why?
3. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you?  
Why?
4. Would you agree with the statement that something's history makes it beautiful? Why or why not?
5. Do you ever feel like you're not good enough to represent God?
6. Do you have a "lowlight reel" that keeps you feeling like a failure? What's one thing that's on it?

# 13

## Brokenness Made Beautiful

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1. Have you ever done refinishing or renovations?
2. Have you ever met someone who was “beautifully broken?” If so, who was it, and why would you pick them?
3. Would you agree with the statement that sin and brokenness aren’t the same thing? Why or why not?
4. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you? Why?
5. Do you feel comfortable “sharing your story” with people? Why or why not?
6. Is there something that you’d like to share right now in *aletheia*?

# 14

## Filled With Gold

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1. What is the best meal you've ever eaten?
2. Have you ever been *hangry*?
3. Would you agree with the statement that Christians are spiritually *hangry*?  
Why or why not?
4. Was there anything said in this chapter that particularly resonated with you?  
Why?
5. What comes to your mind when you think of holiness? How would you define it?
6. Do you believe you are being transformed by God?
7. What's next?