

BLESSED
BROKEN
GIVEN

DISCUSSION GUIDE



How Your Story Becomes Sacred
in the Hands of Jesus

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Chapter I: Glorious Bread

Have you ever felt that your life is too ordinary to really matter in the Kingdom of God?

Have you ever felt that your life is too messed up to be used by God?

What does it mean to you to say the whole earth is full of God's glory?

How could your life be a container of God's glory?

What would it mean to welcome the Holy Spirit's work each day?

Chapter 2: Origins

What is your “origin story”? Where have you come from?

What was your family like?

In your own words, describe how the Bible tells the world its own story?

How has God been re-writing your story?

How does it change your view of what it means to be blessed by thinking of blessedness as a story
not a state?

Chapter 3: Names

What does your name mean?

How does it line up with your sense of who you are and what God has called you to be?

What character quality name would God give you?

How could you be like the messenger that found Hagar?

Are there people in your life that need an intervention from God?

Chapter 4: Tables

How regularly does your church receive communion?

What is your experience of coming to the Lord's Table?

What other practices at your church form you as one family of God?

Are there people in your church that you would not necessarily have chosen to be part of the family?

In what way do they reveal the the miracle of God's blessing?

Chapter 5: Shadows and Shame

Have you ever come up against your limitations or felt overwhelmed? Would you be willing to share a bit about that?

In your experience, what is the difference between feeling frail and actually failing?

What do you think about the idea that there is a good kind of shame, the shame associated with guilt?

Do you struggle to believe that Jesus really removes our sin and our shame?

Where do you need Jesus to bring you His peace and wholeness?

Chapter 6: Suffering and Pain

Would you be willing to share a story of how you have experienced suffering or pain?

What questions would you have asked Jesus if you were Mary or Martha after Lazarus died?

What do you think the author means by saying that “redemption is stronger than prevention”?

How does it help to know that Jesus experienced our brokenness of suffering and pain?

What does the hope of resurrection mean?

Chapter 7: Confession and Community

Reflect on the phrase, “Bread that is not broken cannot be shared”?

How have you experienced the strength of a community around you in times of frailty, failure, or suffering and pain?

How does your community lead you to confession?

How does your community embody God’s grace?

What does it mean to remember Jesus and His brokenness for us and to be remembered by Him?

Chapter 8: For the Love of Jesus

What is the difference between drained and being spent?

Have you ever experienced being “sent” by the Lord into a particular situation?

Do you ever feel like what you have to offer are only crumbs?

Where are you tempted to go “begging for bread” from places and people that will not truly satisfy?

How would it change your approach to service to be motivated by a love for Jesus more than anything else?

Chapter 9: For One Another

What are meal times like in your house?

What is the most amazing hospitality you've ever experienced?

What does it mean for the church to offer "healing inclusivity" to others?

Which do you more naturally offer to others— belonging or healing?

How does the grace of God produce generosity in us?

Chapter 10: For the Life of the World

Have you personally experienced hostility from non-Christians? If so, describe.

Have you tried to share the Gospel or invite someone to church recently? If so, how did it go?

What cultural shifts have you observed in your own community?

What would it look like to come alongside people who are disillusioned with Jesus or the Church or Christianity?

What it would mean to awaken wonder and hope in your neighbors, peers, or co-workers who don't follow Jesus?

Chapter II: The King's Feast

In your own words, what is the “feast” the world offers?

How would you describe the banquet Jesus sets before us?

How do Cranmer's “Comfortable Words” move you?

What would it look like to allow yourself to be “taken” by Jesus each day?

How could tomorrow be different as a result of reading this book?