



THURSDAY 09.23.10

John 3:13-17

John 3:16 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible. Speaking to the Jewish leader, Nicodemus, Jesus is expressing to him God's purpose behind the cruel fate that awaited Jesus at the end of his life. Jesus, God's own son, had come into the world to seek out what had been lost and "to save the world through him."

- In I John 5 we read, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." What does the life and death of Jesus teach us about God and God's love for the world?
- Jesus' life is a testimony to the fact that God does not wait on us but is always seeking us out. What does it mean to you to think that God is actively pursuing you?



FRIDAY 09.24.10

Colossians 1:15-23

One of the central teachings of the New Testament is found in Colossians 1:15. "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God." In other words, the life, teaching, death and resurrection of Jesus is the most explicit revelation of God's character and love. Love, the defining characteristic of God, looks like Jesus. In him, God's desire to redeem and restore all of creation is most clearly seen.

- The life of Jesus is evidence of how much God loves the world and how much God believes in our recovery. No one is considered to be a lost cause according to the grace offered to every human heart in Jesus. Do you believe that recovery is possible? How has your faith influenced your answer to that question?
- Recovery starts with taking a step. God's first step was Jesus. What is the next step you need to take?



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Broken*
 Message: *Who Is God?*
 Scripture: *Galatians 5:1*

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." Galatians 5:1

Five lies that create a roadblock:

1. My issue is _____ than God.
Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. II Corinthians 12:8-9
2. God does not _____ my issue.
Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16
3. God expects _____ to deal with it.
"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30
4. God cannot work _____.
He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32
5. God does not _____ about my life.
You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8



Introduction

Who is God?

This is our question for the second week of the *Broken* series and one of the most important questions we must wrestle with if healing is going to truly happen in our lives. You might have heard it said this way, “Beliefs determine behaviors.” If we affirm that truth then we can say that having a clear understanding of God’s character and identity has a tremendous impact on our own journey of recovery.

The Bible certainly teaches us how we are to live, but even more than that, the Bible helps us understand who God is and why God seeks to live in relationship with us. It clarifies for us God’s character and God’s intentions. This week we will look at five of these core characteristics that the Bible teaches are at the heart of God’s identity. As you read each day, prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to grow into a deeper understanding of each of these core characteristics.

Holy and loving God, help me to understand you. I confess that when I think about the brokenness in my life, I sometimes struggle to understand why you would love me. Open the eyes of my heart today to see more clearly the unconditional and amazing love you have for me and for the entire world. AMEN.



TUESDAY 09.21.10

Genesis 2:4-7

How the earth was created is an issue that continues to baffle scientists. Theories and explanations abound as to the specific way in which the universe was formed, and yet, there remains a question beyond “what happened” to bring our world into existence. Genesis addresses the “why” question and shows us a God who creates in order to live in relationship with that creation.

- In verse 7 we read that God took the dust of the ground and shaped it into human form. According to Genesis, it is the breath of God that animates and gives life. What does this teach us about our ongoing relationship with our creator?
- Today, take a moment to simply breathe. Receive God’s presence in that simple gift of life. Express your thanks to God for the gift we are given with each breath that we take.



MONDAY 09.20.10

Psalms 139:1-18

Insight is defined as “the capacity to gain an accurate and deep intuitive understanding of a person or thing.” For lasting change to occur, insight is an absolute necessity. While we are sometimes blinded in our understanding of our own actions, Psalm 139 affirms that God’s knowledge is grounded in the fact that God created us and “knit us together in our mother’s womb.”

- Hearing someone else’s perspective often helps us understand ourselves in a much better way. What does Psalm 139 say about God’s perspective on our lives? In what ways might God’s perspective help us understand ourselves in a deeper way?
- Verse 14 says that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” Another translation says that we have been made “wonderfully complex.” What does this say about God’s care and concern for our lives? What does this say about God’s care and concern for your brokenness?



WEDNESDAY 09.22.10

Hosea 11:1-9

The Old Testament testifies to the often rocky relationship between God and God’s people. Time and time again the people of God would find themselves wandering from the covenant that God had made with Israel. In the book of Hosea, the prophet speaks of the unwavering commitment of God to this sacred covenant despite Israel’s many sins.

- Love is most clearly understood in the actions we take in its expression. In this passage, what are some of the actions that Hosea recounts as evidence of God’s love and dedication to God’s people? What does Hosea say that God has chosen not to do because of his great love for Israel?
- In what ways have you experienced God’s dedication to loving and living in relationship with you? What does God’s commitment to each of us say about God’s confidence in our recovery?
