



TURN *the* PAGE

SESSION 7 – FROM RUINED TO RESTORED

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Turn the Page” by helping to restore God’s dream for the world.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61: 1-7, Jeremiah 17: 7-8

ICE BREAKER

Share your greatest cooking disaster. What happened? Were you able to salvage anything?

OPENING THOUGHT

On 15 June 1985, Rembrandt’s 17th-century painting Danaë was attacked in the Hermitage Museum in Russia. A man first threw sulfuric acid on the canvas and then cut it twice with a knife. The entire central part of the composition was virtually destroyed. The restoration took 12 years to complete, and the painting is again on display in Russia. What skills and character traits would you say a restoration expert requires?

BIBLE DISCUSSION

1. Read Isaiah 61:1-7. What do you notice?
2. Count how many words of restoration, release, and renewal are in this passage. Which one resonates most with you?
3. Read Jeremiah 17:7-8. How does this passage add to your understanding of the “oaks of righteousness” in vs. 3 of Isaiah 61?

LIFE APPLICATION

4. The Hebrew word for broken in Isaiah 61:1 is shabar, meaning “to burst, break into pieces, wreck, crush, smash; to rend, tear in pieces.” This brokenness isn’t the pain of a minor scrape, but crushing devastation. In what ways has this kind of pain touched your life?
5. The message of Isaiah is that beauty comes from the ashes. How have you experienced this reality? Is beauty seen only in the rear view mirror, or can it be seen in the moment of our pain?
6. Throughout the Bible, the oak tree is a symbol of strength and endurance. The strength of these mighty trees does not come from what’s visible above the ground, but from the root system underground. How does walking with God through these “big” things increase your root system? Can you share an example?
7. Our God is one of restoration, yet often we struggle with the shame of our past. How difficult is it for you to trust and believe in God’s promise of exchanging your shame for joy? How can we be an encouragement to another?

CHALLENGE

“God’s glory and our freedom are inextricably intertwined.” – Louie Giglio. Identify one area in your life that needs restoration and share with your group. Commit to praying Isaiah 61:1-7 over that area this week, submitting the issue to God’s restorative hands. Ask him to bind up what needs healing, set free what needs to be released, and rebuild what has been broken so you can display his splendor.



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ICE BREAKER

These initial questions will set the tone for the unfolding conversation.

OPENING THOUGHT

You can show this art renovation clip to start the conversation on YouTube (Restoration of a William Merrit Chase Painting - Narrated)

Help the group brainstorm character traits that also apply to God, the ultimate restorer; patience, ability to see beyond the grime and dirt to the real beauty, methodical, tender, willing to strip away that which causes harm, persistence, revealer of beauty

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Allow for open discussion and push for a lot of observations of the text. Let people ask questions or bring up anything in the text that may bother them.

LIFE APPLICATION

This part of your time is the place to dig in with the group and draw out some pretty big topics. Here are some potential follow up questions that get at the message.

- Can we trust God with the devastating parts of our life?
- What does the exchange of beauty for ashes look like? Can we only see it in the rear view mirror? Is it possible to see it in the moment?
- The root system of an oak tree reaches down to where there are ample supplies of water and nutrients in the soil. The average large oak tree needs as much as fifty gallons of water per day, so the root system is extensive and goes deep to reach that water. The root system not only brings the needed nourishment to the tree but it provides the anchoring base that allows the tree to withstand all kinds of assaults, from the wind, the rain, and the shaking of earthquakes. All of that growth takes time; an oak tree takes 150 years to mature and doesn’t hit old age until its 700. How might we give ourselves and others grace as we mature as Christ-followers?
- “Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It’s the fear that we’re not good enough” – Brene Brown. Given what we know about the character of God and his love & sacrifice for us, how does that influence your ability to believe God’s offer to exchange shame for a double portion?

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