



BEAUTY IN BROKENNESS

Luke 2:1-20

“To all who mourn in Israel, [a] he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.”

~ Isaiah 61:3, NLT

The Big Ideas from the Message

- ◆ Every person's life write's a story others may read.
- ◆ The greatest lesson in any story are the dramatic struggles and dark spiritual battles.
- ◆ There is tremendous value in brokenness; there is beauty in ashes.

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a favorite story from your childhood. Briefly share this story with the group. Now tell the story minus the conflict. What do you notice about the story?
2. We get tired of conflict and drama in our life story. At times we may even ask: why me? What are some of the questions you ask?
3. Read Luke 2:1-20.
4. Search for all the points of drama or conflict.
5. What questions do you think were being asked by Joseph and Mary?
6. It can feel wrong to ask questions, especially to God. One question of great value stands above all other questions and this question puts us in a position to experience an intimacy with the Father like never before. The question is, “God, what are you doing in my life right now?” Think of an experience in your life, past or present, when you asked – or should have asked – this question. What did the experience produce in your soul?
7. God is the author of your story. How does this reality make you feel?
8. Going back to the text: How is God writing your story? How is he making the conflict, brokenness, and confusion, more beautiful?

What will you do?

1. Remember: God brings about beauty through brokenness. Recall a time when He did this for you and relay it to the group.
2. Perhaps your life story in the midst of a difficult journey right now. How might this moment be different if you ask: “God, what are you doing?” Or, “How can I join you in what you are doing?”

Believing the Good News

As you become familiar with God's Word, it builds your faith. Take a few minutes this week to memorize the verse below. Hiding God's Word in your heart adds many blessing to your walk with Him.