

Chapter Two: The Melody of Brokenness

The focus of this week's study is to help people come to grips with the importance of "brokenness" in their developing relationship with Christ. Since "conventional wisdom" about spiritual maturity is often that a person becomes more "together" the longer they are a Christian, this week's discussion will probably push some buttons and require grace in exploring these assumptions together. It's a discussion worth having, because a person will only be able to receive the Gospel by faith to the extent they embrace their brokenness.

Getting Connected

While this question begins by focusing on "financial poverty", our desire is that it help participants prepare for the enfolding discussion of "poverty of spirit". Don't let this just become a discussion about money at this point ... rather focus on each person's response to not having enough resources and having to change something as a result.

Highlights and Insights

- A reminder again that asking for each person to summarize their thoughts and conclusions should be a brief introduction/transition. Perhaps preface each question with the words, "*In a sentence or two ...*" Don't let these initial questions to redirect the entire discussion.
- The same with the quotation from Thomas a Kempis. An idea for this question might be for you to hand out index cards and have people anonymously write down their initial response, and you read them all aloud.
- When people are asked if their response is "freeing or frightening", remind the group that it is a safe place for talking about our honest responses to the book and God's Word. So it's OK to admit that something is unsettling or elicits a response of fear.

Biblical Focus

Make sure that this section is the focal point of your group time, and that different people in your group are invited to read the verses aloud. If time permits, have people answer the "Tongue Assignment" question at the end of this section before moving on to "The Heart of the Matter".

The Heart of the Matter

As you lead your group in applying this discussion to their life, remind them that we're all somewhere along the floating scale and our goal isn't to induce shame or invite comparison. Rather to help each person identify where they are so they can wrestle with what this might imply for themselves.

In Conclusion ...

It's OK to encourage some silence here, inviting people to quietly spend some time with the Holy Spirit, reflecting on what He's doing in their heart. We'd recommend having each person turn to page 54 in the book and read this prayer silently, then after about 2-2.5 minutes (which might seem like an eternity) invite people to pray as they are prompted to do so.