

WHEN IT'S REALLY VERY BADLY BROKEN

VARIOUS SCRIPTURES // PASTOR TODD DUGARD
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There is hope for your family even when it is really, very badly broken because Jesus came for the “bruised reeds” (Matthew 12:15-21), your brokenness is not too broken (John 4:1-42), your true family is your eternal one and not your earthly one (Luke 8:19-21), and your deepest longings are meant to be fulfilled in glory not on earth (1 Peter 1:6-7).

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When have you felt that “awesome” may be out of reach for your family?
- What comfort can you take from admitting some situations won’t be fixed this side of heaven? Why is admitting that truth not the same thing as giving up hope?
- If you have tried to remain faithful in a broken situation how might you identify with the metaphors of Jesus not breaking a *bruised reed* or quenching a *smoldering wick*? (Matthew 12:20)
- Read Matthew 12:21. As it relates to your family, what do you think is meant by the phrase, “in his name the Gentiles will hope”?
- Read John 4:10-14. The woman in this passage had experienced five failed marriages and was suffering in the isolating shame of her sixth dysfunctional relationship. Why does Jesus offer living water to people living in this level of brokenness?
- How does a person drink the living water that Jesus offers? If you have accepted the “living water” how have you experienced what Jesus describes in John 4:14?

Often we want things that are objectively good, like health, marriage, family, peace, and satisfaction. But when we demand these things in order to feel happy, we are bound to be disappointed. They cannot live up to our longing, because our longing is for heaven. You can only be satisfied by Christ Jesus and fulfilled in our heavenly home—Steve Timmis

- How does Luke 8:19-21 move disciples away from idolizing the family?
- Idolatry is hard to recognize. What are some signs that would suggest to others that we have been putting too high a priority on family relationships and too little priority on following Jesus?
- 1 Peter 1:6-7 indicates that trials, including ones in our family, reveal the quality of our faith in Christ. Given that encouragement, what have family trials revealed about the quality of your personal commitment to Jesus?
- Despite the trials you face with your family, how can you refocus so that your dependence on Christ for what you ultimately long for becomes more real and apparent?
- Looking again at Galatians 5:22-23 which of the Spirit's fruit are you cultivating to help you in the hardest parts of your family relationships? How do you want to demonstrate that fruit this week?