

BLESSED, BROKEN, GIVEN.

Week Three

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for being with us. Please help us to see what you have for us as we connect with one another. Amen.

Talk It Over

During this series, we have been looking at the ways God moves in the common and the ordinary. This idea of God doing extraordinary things with what is ordinary is highlighted in the ways Jesus blessed, broke, and gave bread. As we close out this series today, we are looking specifically at what it means to be given.

- As a church community, EastLake is committed to being a place where it's okay to not be okay. We are a collection of broken, hurting, lost, curious, questioning people who are finding hope and healing in Jesus. In your own way, how have you experienced or observed this community being a place where it's okay to not be okay?
- What keeps a community from being safe?

Here is this week's big idea: Every time Jesus took bread in his hands, he blessed it, broke it, and gave it. Our blessedness and brokenness must result in our givenness. In other words, our blessedness and brokenness means we say 'yes' to being sent people who live on mission for Jesus.

- How familiar or unfamiliar are you with this idea of living on mission for Jesus? Explain your answer.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (Voice)

When we choose to follow Jesus, God looks to use our lives to tell a beautiful story. Beyond doing this for our own healing, he does this to show others who Jesus is. In this way, we are sent people. When we experience the resurrected life of Jesus we are showing others God's goodness.

- Reread 2 Corinthians 4:7-10 (Voice) again. Was there anything from the verse that stood out to you personally? What was it about that idea or line that resonated with you?
- Tell us about a person whose life has been changed by Jesus and then used as a witness of God's goodness to others. Explain what you see in that person and how you see God using their life to show others who God is.

Read Matthew 5:14-16 (ESV)

When we say 'yes' to Jesus and chose to trust him, Jesus — the light of the world — comes into our life and we become a light to the world.

- We each take up various spaces in our lives. These various arenas are all natural places where we can shine Jesus. Explain how you are seeing Jesus work through the various areas of your life or in the life of someone you know: Story, neighborhood, finances, work, school, church, and relationship.

When we have given our life to Jesus, our givenness is meant to:

(Content continued on the next page.)

One — Illuminate the path to Jesus

- How have you seen someone's commitment to Jesus illuminate the path to Jesus for someone else?

Two — Influence people towards Jesus.

- In what ways have you seen someone's commitment to Jesus influence someone else's openness to Jesus?

Three — Impact communities for Jesus.

- How have you seen a Jesus move through a community recently?

Read Acts 1:8 (NIV)

As we go about living as sent and given people, may we always remember that we do not do this on our power, grace, goodness, or mission.

- In what ways do you want to improve your capacity to shine Jesus to others?
- In what ways do you sense, see, think, or feel God desiring to use you to shine Jesus to others this season?

Closing Prayer

God, thank you for the ways you work in our life and for the invitation you extend to us to show others who you are. We give you permission to use our life to shine who you are to others. Help us to live as sent and given people. Amen.

Group Logistics [A Reminder for New Groups]

As your group heads to a close for the holidays, be sure everyone is on the same page regarding expectations. Is this a break? Are you going to restart with next group launch? Consider ending your season with some sort of fun celebration. You may also plan on attending the Encounter Jesus Weekend on November 23/24 together as a form of connection. Baptisms will also be happening this weekend in case anyone from your group is looking to take this step.

How To Use this Discussion Guide

The guide is meant to serve you and your group as you intentionally create space to grow in friendship and faith. Use the guide as a tool to help your unique group.

With that in mind, consider reviewing the guide before your group to see if some content or questions might resonate more or less with your group. Don't feel pressured to read all the content or to hit all the questions. The guide is not meant to be something you power through for the sake of completing. Pick the content from the guide you feel will help foster friendship and faith in your specific group.

In addition, spend some time praying for your group each week, preparing your heart, and asking God for wisdom and guidance as you lead.