

Take Three Actions This Week

1. **Pray About It** - Ask God to lead you to somebody to share your story with, the Good News of how God made a difference in your life and how He can make a difference in theirs.
2. **Write About It** - Write down your story in order to be prepared in advance to share.
 - Make a list of all the experiences that have significantly impacted your life to this day - positive and negative. Write down the ones you caused and the ones you didn't.
 - Write out what you learned from each experience.
 - Write how God helped you make it through the tough times.
 - Write a list of people who need to hear your story.
 - Write your story out on paper.
3. **Share About It** - After you've written your story, your testimony, share it with your accountability partner. Your partner can help you review your story to ensure you haven't left out any important events that would be helpful to others and help you share your story in a way that is humble, real, and not lecturing.

FIRST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH



AT
BROCK HALL



SMALL GROUP STUDY THE SHARING CHOICE

The Beatitudes - Part 8

Freedom from your hurts, hang-ups, and habits.

Open

Share a time in your life when you knew you should have gone to the doctor and/or hospital but didn't go. When was it and why didn't you go?

The Misconception

Most of us are under the misconception that God uses only the really, gifted, extraordinarily talented people. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. What kind of people does God really use?

Why Pain?

Why a good God allows pain and suffering is a universal question. There are several reasons, but in this study we'll look at the big four.

1. God has given us a free will.

- Read Genesis 1:27.
- What are the implications for being created in God's image?
- How does this relate to our free will?

2. God uses pain to get our attention.

- Read Proverbs 20:30; 2 Corinthians 7:9.
- How can comfort actually be a hindrance to our dependence on God?
- What happens when pain enters our lives?

3. God uses pain to teach us to depend on him.

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:-9.

- What are some things we can only learn through pain?

4. God allows pain to give us a ministry to others.

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:4; Genesis 50:20
- How can the pain in our own lives benefit others?

Sharing Your Story

The most simple way to use your pain to help others is by sharing your story. It not only gives hope to others, it brings healing to you. How does 1 Peter 3:15 encourage you to be prepared to share?

The Sharing Beatitude

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:10

- How can you be persecuted and blessed at the same time?
- How does sharing about our trials advance the kingdom of heaven?
- Why do people relate more to our weaknesses than our strengths?

The Sharing Choice

Yield myself to God to be used to bring the Good News to others, both by my example and by my words?

- How can your pain be good news to others?
- Why is it hard to relate to someone who is "perfect"?