

BROKEN AND BELOVED: Parts I & II



PART I: BROKEN RITUAL

TIMING: Sunday AM, following break after Foot Washing

EXPECTATION: It is preferred that the speaker memorize this talk by heart and not use any note cards. (You may make ONE note card to use in an emergency.) Small Group Leaders must have this ceremony committed to memory.

PURPOSE: to speak the truth that we are human - simultaneously broken in our fallenness and beloved by God

ENERGY: sovereign, lover, reverent, blessing

LIGHTS: Lights should be down low for this entire ritual.

MATERIALS:

1. Pendants: Assigned staff woman ensures that Staff has pendants by the end of breakfast and reminds Staff to have their pendants ready but out of sight of Attendees
2. Broken & Beloved Materials for each Small Group, four staff groups (Yellow, Blue, Orange, and Leadership), Speaker/Model. Materials include:
 - One container of ashes per group
 - One small mirror per group

INSIDE SETUP

- Inside Set-Up Team adds chairs for each SGL into the inner circle
- SGL sits in the middle most chair when the women come in to sit down. Instruct group members to sit on either side of you
- All other Staff sits in outer circle until after the modeling and then gather with their team around the room to go through the ritual

THE BROKEN TALK

All weekend we have been using symbols to bring to your awareness God's presence. On Friday we talked about The Trees in the Garden. The Tree of Life - where under its branches everything was as God designed it to be. Where His image was in humanity and creation was unbroken. In the Garden, there was connection in relationships, to God and to one another, and they were whole, having all that they needed.

We also spoke about the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil where His image in us and our relationship to Him was broken through Adam and Eve's choice to control their lives. His image is broken in us through our own choice to control our lives. We created False Selves in our own futile efforts to restore ourselves to the Tree of Life.

He did restore it with this tree, the Cross. (Point to the cross.) We are now entering into a ceremony which represents this journey from brokenness back to our restored position in Christ.

This morning we will be expressing through ritual two important truths about us. We will first embrace that we are human. Last night, we used ashes to represent our shame. This morning those ashes now represent that we are simply human beings, made from the earth and we will return to the earth.

These ashes represent our humanity. They point to the reality that we are not perfect, that the image of God has been broken in us - through our own sins and the sins of others against us. They symbolize that we need a Savior to restore us to God, to restore His image within us.

These ashes point out that we are broken. What we mean by "broken" is not that we are victims, handicapped and stuck in some helpless state. It is another word to express our humble state before God. It means that His image is indeed broken in us, and that through Christ we are restored to wholeness. In Christ we are new. To experience this transformation requires that we come to Him in our weakness, our dependency, our brokenness.

The ashes we will be using for this ritual are the same ones that came from the burning of our shame last evening - our ashes intermingled with ashes from hundreds of other women from around the country who have been through Women at the Cross. This intermingling represents that we are all the same. We are all equally broken in our humanity.

BROKEN MODELING

Once the Talk is finished:

- Broken Speaker invites the Beloved Model to come up [This is the Shame Model]
- Broken Speaker holds the bowl of ashes for her
- The Beloved Model puts ashes on her fingers and makes the sign of the cross on her own forehead and says, *“I am Broken.”* [She should already know to do this before the ritual begins.]
- The Broken Speaker responds, *“Yes, you are.”*
- Broken Speaker asks everyone to STAND and says, *“Now, please form your Small Groups where you are standing.”*

BROKEN RITUAL

Each SGL should have this process committed to memory. Staff Color teams and Leadership will form small groups around the room. [See Small Group Manual or Broken and Beloved Ritual Document for script].

NOTE for Leadership/Broken and Beloved Speaker: If groups end early and begin to get distracted, walk up to the SGL and gently say, “Let’s stay focused and allow this truth to sink in.”

DO NOT LET THE GROUPS DISINTEGRATE INTO TALKING , JOKING, ETC. KEEP THEM FOCUSED.

SPEAKER: When ALL the groups have finished putting on the ashes and each group has had several minutes to share about their brokenness ask them to step back into the semi-circle. Have them **REMAIN STANDING.**

BROKEN AND BELOVED: PART II

PART II: BELOVED

TIMING: Sunday AM, immediately following Broken Ritual

EXPECTATION: It is preferred that the speaker memorize this talk by heart and not use any note cards. You may make ONE note card to use in an emergency.

PURPOSE: to speak the truth that we are human - simultaneously broken in our fallenness and beloved by God

ENERGY: sovereign, lover, reverent, blessing

LIGHTS: Lights should be down low for this entire ritual.

MATERIALS: Pendants will have already been delivered to each Small Group Leader

THE BELOVED TALK

Next we will use a symbol to proclaim the most important truth...the greatest truth...the truth that we are loved by God. While it is true that we are broken, our brokenness is merely the entryway into the love of God. It is like the threshold of the house through which we enter into this place of rest - in the love of God. We don't live in the threshold of a house, we live inside the house. Likewise, we are not redeemed to live in our brokenness, we are to live as the Beloved of God.

God has said over us, "You are my Beloved Child." Our brokenness, symbolized by the ashes, is the reality through which we come to experience the love of God that leads us to genuine faith and repentance. We will give you a symbol to represent this truth – that **you are** beloved.

BELOVED MODELING

Once the Talk is finished:

- Beloved Speaker invites the Beloved Model to come up (This is the Shame Model)
- Beloved Speaker takes Beloved Model's pendant and puts it over her head and says, *"You are Beloved."*
- The Beloved Model replies, *"I am Beloved."*
- Beloved Speaker says, " , [her name] you are a Beloved daughter of God. Stand in this truth. Walk in this truth."

BELOVED RITUAL

Each SGL should have this process committed to memory. Staff Color teams and Leadership will form small groups around the room. [See Small Group Manual or Broken and Beloved Ritual Document for script].

NOTE for Leadership/Broken and Beloved Speaker: If groups end early and begin to get distracted, walk up to the SGL and gently say, "Let's stay focused and allow this truth to sink in."

DO NOT LET THE GROUPS DISINTEGRATE INTO TALKING , JOKING, ETC. KEEP THEM FOCUSED.

SPEAKER

- When you notice that ALL groups are in a time of prayer, give the last group that entered into prayer a few minutes to pray and then announce, *"We will give you just a moment to finish up that prayer."*
- Wait a minute, then call them back to the large circle.
- Pause in silence for a few seconds. Remain in sacred space, centered, aware of God's love for the women. From this place and with a voice that owns the truth and is rooted in this truth , say,
"Please repeat after me. (pause) I am broken. (I am broken.) I am beloved. (I am beloved.)
I am broken. (I am broken.) I am beloved. (I am beloved.)
I am broken. (I am broken.) I am beloved. (I am beloved.)"
- Beloved Speaker says a prayer sealing the truths of their brokenness and belovedness before God.