



We all experience stages of loss in life. Perhaps we lost a job, financial stability, health, or a loved one. Or maybe the loss is unspoken. We have lost our self-confidence, self-worth, or faith. Whether we face internal or external brokenness, how should we, as followers of Christ, respond? What can you do if you really want to know abundant wholeness? Join *Discover the Word* and author Ann Voskamp as we discover and learn to believe that freedom can be found not only beyond the fear and pain, but within it.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In predicting His death in John 12:24, Jesus used the word picture of a seed falling to the ground and dying then springing forth to produce many seeds. How might we view the struggles of life in a "seed-producing" sort of way?
- The Lord's Supper is a time of remembrance—remembering how Jesus gave everything so we could have eternal life. The image of breaking bread can be multiplied as it is given to others. How can this image be part of our daily lives? (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26.)
- One of the most popular verses in the Bible is John 3:16. It reminds us that God loved us so much that He gave everything! Giving to others can be accomplished in very simple ways. Can you name a few? How could you use your unique gifts and resources to give to others?



CHALLENGE

Spend some time this week reflecting on the Bible and how God has used people's brokenness for good. Who comes to mind? What came as a result of that person's brokenness? How might God be using your brokenness to call you to a life of abundant wholeness?



COMMIT TO MEMORY

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."
(John 12:23-24)



PRAYER

Father, You have blessed me beyond measure. You have provided salvation through the gift of Your only Son. You provide life and breath and my daily needs. Help me understand better what it means to become like bread-broken and given to others, and then help me embrace that idea so others may experience Jesus in their lives. Amen.



Most of us would agree that it is natural to build a protective wall that prevents us from sharing the hurt and pain associated with the struggles of life. But why does Jesus call us to be vulnerable and open with others? Continue the conversation with special guest, author Ann Voskamp as we discover that sharing our brokenness not only helps us heal but can also help others discover a path to healing.



THIS WEEK'S DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you have a bucket list—things you would like to accomplish in your lifetime? How does fulfilling that list compare with the apostle Paul's challenge in Philippians 2:5–8? If Christ gave everything and emptied Himself for others, how might this passage change our priorities?
- “[Love] bears all things”—those words from 1 Corinthians 13:7 (NKJV) carry the idea of a roof. What does a roof provide? How might this idea transfer to the way we love others and the way in which we receive love from others?
- We’ve all been there . . . someone has treated us badly, which leaves us feeling hurt, angry, or both! Our natural reaction is to react in kind, but Jesus tells us in Mark 8:34 (NIV): “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Why would Jesus ask us to deny ourselves when we have been wronged?
- Jesus expressed a heart of compassion in the opening verses of Mark 8. Is it possible to have compassion without also co-suffering with another person? Why or why not?
- The apostle Paul stated in 2 Corinthians 12:9: “I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” Why is there help, healing, and strength when we’re vulnerable with someone?



CHALLENGE

It’s so easy to build a wall of protection so that others cannot enter in. Yet when we open ourselves up, others are drawn to the Lord and to us. God uses our pain and our vulnerability to bring honor to Himself and to provide help in our time of need. Prayerfully consider each question in this week’s study and ask the Lord to lead you to that person you can be open and honest with about the struggles of life.



COMMIT TO MEMORY

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”
(Mark 8:34)



PRAYER

Father, it is so very hard to deny myself, yet I know this is what You call me to. May I rest in the strength You provide so that I may be vulnerable in trusting the work You are doing in me. May my heart also be open before others so I can build relationships of trust and so they can see Jesus more clearly. In Jesus’ name, Amen.