

loving Jesus and loving my friends...
THE ESSENTIALS

Brokenness

we all need fixing

*I know my friends need Jesus, but why do I need Jesus?
And why is that important?*

Brokenness

Scripture Verses

“You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.”

Psalm 51:16-17 (NLT)

“Going through the motions doesn’t please you, a flawless performance is nothing to you. I learned God-worship when my pride was shattered. Heart-shattered lives ready for love don’t for a moment escape God’s notice.”

Psalm 51:16-17 (MSG)

“You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.”

Matthew 5:3 (MSG)

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?”

Matthew 7:3-4 (NIV)

“Each time he said, ‘My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.’ So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.”

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NLT)

Short Thoughts

We often look at our friends and peers at school and think, “Man, they’re so messed up!” But how often do we look at our friends and think, “Man, they’re broken just like me. Dang, we BOTH need Jesus?”

It’s easy to look at others and see how messed up they are, but how often do we look at ourselves and realize how messed up WE are and how much we *still* need Jesus EVERY day?

We all have to realize that we’re in the same boat together. We all fall short and are in need of God’s grace—daily... and not just at salvation. The beauty of it is that God desires to use us in the midst of our brokenness to relate to our friends and share the love and healing of Christ with them (See 2 Corinthians 12:9 above).

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Solo Exercise...

this solo exercise is an opportunity for you to work through some questions on your own about your own brokenness. Talk to Jesus about what you are thinking.

Here are some quotes from anonymous postcards that people sent in to a well-known website. They expose the secret thoughts of people your age around the country.

Read through the quotes and answer the following questions...

“I wish my phone would ring more often.” :(

“I only ever played sports to feel like my father loved me.”

“I make everyone believe that I like to be different, but really I just don’t know how to fit in.”

“I think more than usual about killing myself after I have a really good day.”

“I only feel beautiful when I’m hungry.”

“A real friend would have stayed around and helped me.”

“I listen to my friends. I listen to everybody. But no one listens to me.”

“I try to be content, but the truth is, life would be so much easier if I were pretty.”

After reading these secrets, write down which secrets stuck out to you the most and why.

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Solo Exercise (continued)

Were you able to relate to any of these secrets? Write down a few secrets you have, a few areas of your life where you are broken and struggling with and still need Jesus every day.

Write down the ways Jesus makes a difference in these broken areas of your life?

How would your life be different if you didn't know Jesus?

Read through the secrets one more time. Reflect and think about some of the friends/peers God has put in your life who need Jesus. List their names below.

What might some of their secrets be? Why might they act the way they do? Are you aware of any needs in their life?

If so, write them next to their names above.

Think about your own secrets and deep needs. In what way do you feel like you relate to these friends?

How might Jesus want you to show love to these friends? Take some time to pray for each of these friends. Ask God how He might want to use you in their lives.

SOLO CHALLENGE:

Now it's time to live it out! In the next few weeks, continue to pray and ask God how you can take a step of faith to show love to each of the people listed above. In what ways can you tangibly show love to them? How will you let God work through your weaknesses to extend His love to your peers?

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Team Exercise... *this team exercise is an opportunity for you and your campus ministry team to work through some questions about your brokenness together.*

If your team is serious about being a community who exhibits the love of Jesus to others on your campus, it is important that you are honest and real with each other about your need for Jesus, both as individuals and as a group.

Take a few minutes and share with each other what you think you would be like if you didn't know Jesus. How does He make a tangible difference in your life every day?

Share with each other one thing you are currently struggling with and how Jesus is meeting you in your brokenness.

How does your individual brokenness, and your willingness to share that with each other, make your team stronger?

How can your team's collective brokenness help you reach out to and relate to others on your campus or in your youth group?

Take some time to pray together and ask God how He wants to use your collective brokenness, as a team, to love people together and make an impact on your campus.

TEAM CHALLENGE:

What did God say to your team as you prayed together?

What difference would it make if your group became a comfortable place for broken people on your campus to feel loved, welcomed and understood? How can you and your team make this happen?