

Chapter Two: *The Melody of Brokenness*

Getting Connected

Describe a time when you've had to live with insufficient finances or have had to make major lifestyle adjustments because of a reversal of some kind. What was this experience like for you? Were there lessons you learned from that season of life? Or are you just glad it's over, if it is over?

Highlights and Insights

In your own words, how would you summarize Chapter 2?

Was there anything that really caught your attention, challenged or confused you in this chapter?

This chapter begins with a quotation by Thomas a Kempis: – *“The acknowledgement of our weakness is the first step in repairing our loss.”* What's the first thing (don't edit or filter your response) that comes to mind when you read those words?

How has this chapter affected your definition of sin and your awareness of its presence in your life?

Is the thought of seeing your sin in this way more freeing or frightening? Why?

Biblical Focus

Read Matthew 5:3-12. In these verses, Jesus begins describing the nature of what it means to live the gospel of the kingdom, beginning with the words, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit.”*

In your own words, what does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?

What's your take on why Jesus begins this important teaching with this statement?

Read Romans 7:18-24.

What are some of the things we learn about sin from this passage?



Good News For Those Trying Harder, by Pastor Alan Kraft

Based on these verses and 1 Timothy 1:15, did Paul ever “get over” his struggle with sin?

Why does this encourage or discourage you?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10.

How could our struggle with sin actually be a blessing in disguise? Think slowly here.

Did anyone try the Tongue Assignment this week? (page 46)

What was this experience like for you?

How did it reveal for you the inner struggle Paul talks about in Romans 7:18-24?

The Heart of the Matter

On a scale of 1-10, how prepared are you to say, “I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties”? (2 Corinthians 12:10)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not At All									Fully

Does your answer float along the scale in any way or is it fairly constant?

In light of this, circle how the phrase “poor in spirit” describes your experience with Christ right now ...

“Bulls eye.” “Not even in the ballpark.” “Maybe.” “Used to be.”

Comment on what you circled, or suggest another response.

In Conclusion ...

Take time as a group to reflect on what the Holy Spirit is revealing to you as a result of this chapter and your discussion.

Turn to the written prayer on page 54, silently reading its words before closing in prayer aloud. If the words of this prayer resonate with members of your group, perhaps they can be encouraged to express them aloud to the Lord in conclusion.