

Chapter Three: If It's Broken, Fix It!

This week's reading and discussion will probably resonate with people and make them squirm at the same time. The reason is that our definition of "sin"/"sins", and how we respond as Christ-followers, has often been distorted by religious thinking that puts people on a performance treadmill. Our heart for this week's chapter is for people realize that Jesus is all-sufficient to handle their brokenness, and that they are really unable to do so. Also, to grasp that even "righteous actions" can be as sinful as the "worst sin" we can think of.

Getting Connected

While we don't want you to spend too long on this section, it can help people begin to grasp how we all have different ways of responding to brokenness, not all of which work. Have fun with this, but later on in the discussion, you might point people back to this section – "Jesus is all you need!" – and how other attempts of dealing with brokenness fall short.

Highlights and Insights

Allow the opening question to invite initial responses to the chapter. Please encourage these responses to be brief! The last question is designed to help people explore their prior knowledge and ways of responding to brokenness. Make things very specific in terms of what people have been taught (i.e. specific teachings), but do your best to keep people from degrading specific teachers, churches or ministries.

Biblical Focus / The Heart of the Matter

Allow the stark contrasts presented in the people of these texts to be seen! And encourage people to look at themselves in light of them. As time allows, take people to the shaded section in defining things they've seen as "righteous deeds" that they'd probably now see more as "self-righteous attempts to deal with their brokenness".

In Conclusion ...

Pastor Alan uses the metaphor of dancing with God's grace to help his readers envision what it might look like for them to not only embrace the message of the gospel, but to enjoy it. If people are having a hard time thinking of themselves as dancers, you might want to offer this clarification. So the "dancing lessons" question might be, "What do we need from one another to more fully enjoy God's grace?"