



Connect Group Conversation Guide

"From Shame to Sonship: The Grace That Changes Everything"

Opening Prayer & Check-In

- Open in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to move in your time together
- Quick check-in: "What's one thing you're grateful for this week?"

Reflecting on the Message

Discussion Questions:

1. The Broken Window

- Joshua Broome opened with the "broken window theory" - things and places we leave broken in our lives. What resonated with you about this idea?
- Is there a "broken window" in your life that you've been covering up or minimizing rather than bringing to God?

2. The Shame Story

- The speaker shared vulnerably about his childhood wounds and believing he wasn't "enough." Can you relate to carrying shame from your past?
- How has shame shaped the way you see yourself or God?

3. Mephibosheth's Response

- When offered grace and restoration, Mephibosheth said, "What is your servant that you should notice a dead dog like me?" (2 Samuel 9:8)
- Have you ever struggled to accept God's grace because you felt too broken or unworthy?
- What does it reveal about us when we struggle to receive what God freely offers?

Who Jesus Is

Scripture Focus: Hebrews 12:2

"Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus is the Shame-Crusher

- Jesus didn't just endure shame - He *scorned* it, looked down on it as insignificant
- His JOY was us - knowing that His sacrifice would bring us home
- He conquered hell, death, sin, and the grave so we could be free

Jesus is the Debt-Payer

- "Tetelestai"- It is finished (John 19:30)
 - Your debt is paid in full
 - Your sentence is fully served
 - The battle is won

Discussion:

- How does knowing that Jesus' joy was *you* change the way you see yourself?
- Why do you think that we hold on to shame in our lives?
- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus declared "It is finished"?

Who We Are in Christ

Read: 2 Samuel 9

Like Mephibosheth, we were:

- Hiding in fear, expecting judgment
- Broken and unable to save ourselves
- Defined by our past and our family's failures

But God invites us to:

- **Restored Land** - What was lost is being redeemed
- **Restored Position** - From hiding to royalty, from dead to alive (Ephesians 2:5-6)
- **Restored Permanence** - "You will always eat at my table" (2 Samuel 9:7)

Key Truth: Romans 5:8

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Read these together as a group:

- "I am not defined by the worst thing I've ever done, or the greatest thing I'll ever do-God is the author of me."
- "My debt is paid. My sentence is served. The battle is won."
- "I am adopted into the family of God. I have a Father in heaven who looks at me and says, 'This is my son/daughter. I'm proud of you and I love you.'"

Discussion:

- Which of these truths is hardest for you to believe about yourself? Why?
- What would change in your life if you truly lived from this identity?

How We Live This Out

Practical Application and Reflection:

1. Run TO God, Not FROM Him

- Like the prodigal son's father, God is waiting on the porch, ready to run to you
- **Challenge:** This week, when you mess up, practice immediately running to God in prayer rather than hiding

2. Be Honest About the Broken Windows

- "We can only be as free as we're willing to be honest"
- **Question:** What's one thing you've been hiding that needs to be brought into the light with God and safe community?

3. Let Your Wound Become a Scar That Points to the Healer

- The speaker's story went from shame to testimony
- **Encouragement:** Your story isn't over. God has a plan for your pain that points to His healing

4. Pre-Decide Based on Your Identity

- "If you don't have a good reason to say no, you'll say yes to something intellectually you know you should say no to"
- **Action Step:** What boundaries or decisions do you need to make NOW based on who God says you are, not based on how you feel in the moment?

Prayer

Close by thanking God for His grace, asking Him to help each person live from their true identity as beloved sons and daughters.

"You do not have the guts to dream the life that God has for you. But it's going to cost you something - you need to lay down what you walked in here carrying."