



STUDY GUIDE – August 9, 2020

Message Title: Fire In My Bones
A Seat At The Table

Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

RAPID FIRE questions:

- Love to read or not at all?
- Prefer mountain or beach vacation?
- More of a planner liking everything organized and scheduled or lover of spontaneity?

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for the ability to go deeper in Your word. Fan the flame within us, so that we become more passionate about our time with You. Help us to fully know that you chose to come and get us in our scattered shame, brokenness, and barren land to take us to a place of peace and restoration. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

"Maybe it's just human nature to point out the ways we are different.....We do this a lot. We look at someone and we size them up based on some kind of qualifier - we assess them based on their perceived weakness and judge them based on their limitation." ~Pastor Brian Hughes

- Can you think of a time you have done this recently?

Read 2 Samuel 9:1-13

The Bible is inspired by God and written by human hands. Sometimes we speculate on the meaning of things. In the above verses, Mephibosheth's disability is mentioned multiple times. What do you think that the Bible is trying to imply by mentioning it multiple times? Here are a few possibilities as examples as follows: maybe the author just couldn't help himself, perhaps it's significant to show the transformation process that was occurring in Mephibosheth throughout the story, or possibly the placement reveals that it used to be the defining characteristic and isn't any longer.

- What is your best hypothesis as to why the author mentions the disability so many times and is this significant to the story?
- Do you struggle or wrestle at all with speculating at the unknowns in scripture, and how do you approach it?

Watch and Discuss video:

Pastor Brian talked about acknowledging and discovering our brokenness, and on one hand acknowledging and embracing it, but on the other hand not just shrugging our shoulders at it and doing what I can to experience healing in my brokenness. Brokenness is not something that ever gets completely fixed. The point of the Mephibosheth story is not healing, the point is that we get to come to the table in spite of our brokenness because of our allegiance to Jesus. Like Mephibosheth, sitting at the King's table becomes the defining characteristic of our lives. To make this our most defining

characteristic, we must place both our identity and the way we define ourselves in Him, and therefore relocate our brokenness.

It is difficult to change if you cannot understand why you think, feel and act the way you do. More importantly, change is difficult if you cannot see the underlying beliefs/desires that drive how you feel, think, and act the way you do.

- Take 1-2 minutes to reflect silently to discover and/or acknowledge your own brokenness.
- Are you aware of brokenness in your own life? Is it defining the core of who you are or is it on an outer layer?
- What does it mean to sit at the King's table to you, and is this concept central to your definition of self? Do you also see this identity as the defining characteristic of others, the fact that they also have a seat at the King's table?

Reflect and Commit:

"He sat at the King's table not conditioned on his healing, but in spite of his brokenness." ~Pastor Brian Hughes

We all know that the purpose of a vase is to hold water. It's been said that if a vase gets broken and put back together, the cracks allow light to shine through the vase that never could shine through before. It has new purpose. In the same way, once we are broken and put back together, we have cracks in us that Jesus can shine His light through as we serve our new purpose.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 and Psalm 51:17

- Which of these verses speaks to your situation, or is there another one that comes to mind?
- Have you allowed Jesus to both put you back together and fill you up with new purpose?

Pray:

Dear Lord, thank you for helping us to find hope and purpose. Thank you that we have a seat at Your table, and that this is who we are at our core. Let all of our brokenness shine Your light brilliantly, and let our identity be grounded in the new purpose You have for us and may it forever ignite a fire in our bones. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.