



# TURN *the* PAGE

## SESSION 7 - FROM RUINED TO RESTORED

### MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Turn the Page” by helping to restore God’s dream for the world.

### SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61: 1-7 & Jeremiah 17: 7--8

### ICEBREAKER

These initial questions will set the tone for the unfolding conversation.

### OPENING THOUGHTS

You can show this art renovation clip to start the conversation on YouTube (Restoration of a William Merrit Chase Painting - Narrated)

Help the group brainstorm character traits that also apply to God, the ultimate restorer; patience, ability to see beyond the grime and dirt to the real beauty, methodical, tender, willing to strip away that which causes harm, persistence, revealer of beauty

### BIBLE DISCUSSION

Allow for open discussion and push for a lot of observations of the text. Let people ask questions or bring up anything in the text that may bother them.

### LIFE APPLICATION

This part of your time is the place to dig in with the group and draw out some pretty big topics. Here are some potential follow up questions that get at the message.

- Can we trust God with the devastating parts of our life?
- What does the exchange of beauty for ashes look like? Can we only see it in the rear view mirror? Is it possible to see it in the moment?
- The root system of an oak tree reaches down to where there are ample supplies of water and nutrients in the soil. The average large oak tree needs as much as fifty gallons of water per day, so the root system is extensive and goes deep to reach that water. The root system not only brings the needed nourishment to the tree but it provides the anchoring base that allows the tree to withstand all kinds of assaults, from the wind, the rain, and the shaking of earthquakes. All of that growth takes time; an oak tree takes 150 years to mature and doesn’t hit old age until its 700. How might we give ourselves and others grace as we mature as Christ-followers?
- “Shame is the most powerful, master emotion. It’s the fear that we’re not good enough” – Brene Brown. Given what we know about the character of God and his love & sacrifice for us, how does that influence your ability to believe God’s offer to exchange shame for a double portion?

### CHALLENGE

Encourage people to keep up with the Turn the Page Bible Reading Plan ([communitychristian.org/bible](http://communitychristian.org/bible)) and also participate in Giftmart by donating a toy, donating online, or volunteering! ([communitychristian.org/giftmart](http://communitychristian.org/giftmart))