



BREAKING THE ICE

What is the worst injury you have ever had? What happened?

What is one thing you learned in the Mark Study during lent?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, our good friend Annie F. Downs started our series, “Made New”. Over the next few weeks we will be talking about what it means to be made new in Christ.

1. Talk about a time when you wanted a fresh start - a new story in your life.

At the beginning of the message Annie told a story about an accident she had 11 years ago. She scraped up her leg pretty bad. And to this day, she still has a scar from the injury. New skin grew and replenished where she was injured but you can still faintly see the scar where the injury took place.

2. What are some scars in your life that tell a story of struggle?

We all have those moments when we want a new chapter, a new story to emerge in our lives. Sometimes it's because of our own mistakes, or it could be from someone else's mistakes that affected us. Either way, we want things to be better, to be new. Annie talks about wanting a new story but really what we need is our story to be made new - over and over.

Read John 20:24-28

Thomas needed to see Jesus's scars to know He was real. He needed to believe the miracle.

We all have scars that tell our stories. When we grow, we are being made new. This happens over and over as our stories are always adding new chapters. We change every day. Our skin is made new constantly physically and spiritually through the stories in our lives.

3. Describe a made new story in your life going on right now.

We all have some pretty significant scars in our lives that make our story miraculous. Endings to a

relationship, Ending a job, maybe a death of a loved one or even addiction are all significant in the story of your life. Not every scar needs to be talked about to everyone but these scars are miraculous and you making it through them is a miracle.

4. How has someone else's scars or story helped you in your life journey?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-6 (from the Message translation)

Everyone of us have scars that have been made new. God didn't promise us a life free of scars. But He did promise us a life with Him where we can be made new in Him as we follow Him. Surrounding ourselves with others who can encourage us in our stories and scars and help us see the miracles from it, is part of our story as we follow Him.

5. What story in your life do you need to tell someone to give them hope that their story isn't over?

6. Where do you see God in your story right now?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for giving us fresh skin and a new life every day. Every day we have the opportunity to be made new in You. Help us share our story with others to help bring hope to those who need it. Help us see You in our story to give You the glory. Guide us, lead us, in your name. Amen

ACTION STEP

+ Take some time this week to remember and write down how God has made you new from the difficult scars in your life.

+ Tell someone your made new story and where God is working even if there is a difficult scar there.