



# *The Art of Broken Pieces*

*revealing God's glory  
in your story*

Your greatest pain can become your greatest ministry



# Welcome. Let's begin!

I'm so excited to share this beautiful art with you and how it reveals God's desire to hold, mold, and restore your life for the purposes He wove within your innermost being!

Together, we will walk through the nine steps of the art of broken pieces. As you begin each step, take a moment to read the words and promptings of the section and consider how it relates to your life and your unique story.

As you gather, hold, examine, and mend your broken piece of pottery, you are taking something broken and giving it new life. Allow the artistry of restoration to touch your own personal healing journey. This is really not about fixing pottery but discovering there is beauty and purpose in your trial. Hope is the thread that takes you through healing.

Please don't rush yourself; be gentle, kind, and invite in, the emotions you will experience. Allow the lessons, stories, and questions to sit for a while.... listen for their meaning. As you immerse yourself in the process and reflect on the teachings, it is my prayer you will feel God the potter, God the restorer, God the refiner holding all your pieces, and waiting for you to co-author the story He has for you.

In the end, I'm going to ask you, where you see God at work in you?  
Where are you in the process?





# Chosen

As you choose a vessel to restore. I want you to take a moment to remember that you, too, were chosen.



By the work of God's hands, you the clay were created, sculpted and made into wholeness by God the Potter.

As He breathed life into your lungs, He wove His dream for your life into your innermost being.

He will never forsake you or the purpose He placed in your deep within.

God reminds us and brings us back to our chosenness many times throughout our lives, but we often miss the honor bestowed upon us. We also tend to think we need to impact the world in a big way, but it's simply not true. There is a talent, trait, or gifting within you that your trials will start to illuminate. But most of all, there is a redemption story for all of us in the eyes of God - there is no such thing as too broken.

I know this to be true when I think of the story of the Samaritan woman. Jesus purposefully went to Samaria on his way to Galilee, even though it was not the safest route for a Jewish person, because there was a conversation he wanted to have with a woman no one else wanted to talk to. A woman who because of her sins knew what it was to feel forgotten, ignored, rejected, and crushed. Jesus knew her sins fully, but in, or perhaps because of her brokenness, he chose to reveal himself to her as The Living Water. A precursor for his I am statement, "I am the light of the world."

I also think of how Jesus chose Martha, the busy, distracted and demanding one constantly caught up in the tasks of life—the one I'm so prone to be like. Despite her imperfection and ability to be present, He chose her to reveal his I Am statement, "I am the resurrection and the life."

Can you see yourself in either of these chosen women? Can you believe God has chosen you for a message too?

As you look at the patterns in your vessel, take a moment to think of the patterns in your life. Is there a message to learn?



Notes:

unspoken thoughts....



# Broken

There is no art of kintsugi without a broken piece of pottery.

We all, at some point, have been broken. We live in a fallen world, and this side of heaven, it will be so.

There are many types of brokenness; the life-shattering moments that leave us splayed out on the floor staring at the ceiling unable to breathe, and the long arduous seasons of disappointments or unanswered prayers that seem to chip away at us a bit at a time.

There is also the breakage we need to create to release the chains holding us back from becoming the person we want to be-God wants us to be.

Brokenness almost always involves pain.

But pain takes you from who you were, who you thought you were, who you thought you needed to be, to whom God wants you to be.

God the potter is also God the restorer and he will refine you for the purpose he created within you. He will meet you in the dark and broken places.

Your story, my friend, is God's story. Brokenness is the beginning.



Think back on a time of pain, hurt, or disappointment. Take a moment to recall the emotions. Was there pain? Despair? The feeling life would never be whole again?

You came through it, didn't you?

There are likely many such moments in your life. I know there are in mine! These are the pivot points that shape and refine us for the next part of our journey. They are the scars that will make us more beautiful as they grow our wisdom, strength, and compassion.

Take a moment to write down two times you felt broken.

- What lessons did you learn?
- What compassion grew within you by having experienced the trial?
- How did God grow you to prepare you for the next part of your journey?



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# Covering

The first step after breakage is to wrap our broken vessel in cloth. We do this to remind ourselves of the things that hold and cover us; the people, our faith, and the habits from whom we can borrow hope.

The things that hold us are the people and rituals that carry our aching heart forward or give us courage and hope in times of suffering and trials. It can be a mother's love, an encouraging sister or friend, a favorite verse, your quiet time in the morning with God, or the adoration of a child. We allow these messengers of hope to wrap their love around our most vulnerable and tender parts.

Being clothed in Christ, we wrap our pieces to remind us that people, especially the next generation, will be watching how we respond to our trials-how we wear this robe of honor. It can be incredibly difficult when emotions are high, but now more than ever, we need to clothe our broken pieces with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.



- **Make a list of the key people that show up for you?**

- Have you told them how much you value their presence in your life?
- Set up time to meet or connect with these people, even, or especially if you would rather not connect with anyone. These are the people that will help you mend. These are the people who know and love you best.

- **Cover yourself in gratefulness.**

It will change your perspective on everything. I promise!

- Here is a link to a post I created with you in mind! \* [5-ways To Stay Grateful, Even In Hard Times](#) will get you started!

- **Grow your relationship and time with God.**

At times he can feel distant but Jesus tells us in Luke 4:18 that his father sent him to heal the brokenhearted. He's already there, my friend. Draw close to him and he will draw close to you.

- Here is a great podcast by Emily P Freeman on [How To Pray When You're Sad](#)

- **Consider how you want people (especially your children) to reflect on how you handled this trial.**

- Will you have set a positive example?
- Will they have gained or lost respect for you?
- Will you be proud of the way you handled yourself?



*Notes:*





# Gathering

When you are ready, begin to gather the pieces.

As we move into the art of Gathering, we collect the pieces of seemingly unusable shards; we touch them gently and treat them as if they are precious. Because they are.

These are the pieces of what was. Each sharp and exposed edge has a message to reveal a lesson to be learned.

God never wastes the pieces of your life. What you might see as dust or sharp edges, God is already at work redeeming. Don't give up—God hasn't.

You must collect every piece, even the tiniest slivers, as God can only restore the pieces, you give up to Him.

One of the gifts of Kintsugi is there are multiple steps so you cannot rush the art. This is true to healing or creating change in your life as well. As you collect your pieces, be intentional about evaluating each piece before you try to figure out how they go back together. The next two steps will help you to do this.

# Holding

Your pieces are all now in a pile or perhaps you laid them out in the way they will fit back together? You've asked yourself some hard questions and you may feel ready to start putting the vessel back together. Pause, and ask some more.

What do you do when you are hurting or suffering? Are you a fixer? Do you rush to a solution? Do you just want to go back in time to when things were easier? Do you avoid pain??

I do.

It's natural to want to reclaim days of happiness and joy when life was easier; a time when doubt and anxiety did not wake you or rock you to sleep.

But there are lessons in the shards of clay. Lessons not found in the days of bliss or benign. Pain teaches you what pleasure cannot.

When we don't examine the deeper assumptions behind how we gather, we end up skipping quickly to replicating old patterns and forgo the possibility of creating something transformative and new.

When you stop, pause, and wait; when you hold your brokenness gently and invite God into your healing, He will guide you. When you suffer with purpose and the expectation that God is working in you, you become connected to Him; and you experience hope.



*Notes:*





# Examination

You've answered the hard questions and given your brokenness up to God, you are ready to begin the art of examination.

When we look at our pieces and our first instinct is to ask WHY.

In the why, we find reason, labels, and perhaps blame. We find a way to respond, and a way to support.

Why holds great value in understanding what was. It's natural to ask why. Even Jesus asked on the cross "my God, my God, WHY have you forsaken me?"

But asking WHY without asking WHAT is to remain in the presence of our brokenness.

When we ask, "God, WHAT are showing me?"  
we dare to imagine what God can do with our broken pieces.  
By asking WHAT, we open our mind to possibilities  
which in turn opens our eyes and our hearts.

WHAT makes us instruments to bring the power and glory of God into the world.

When we ask WHAT, true healing begins.

**Take some time to walk through these questions and any others that may be on your mind:**

- Why? Try not to go to blame as it will keep you stuck. Instead search only your responsibility in this trial. Sometimes it applies, other times, not.
- What? What can I learn from this season?
- What might God be showing me or preparing me for?
- What good is growing within me as I walk this journey? Compassion, understanding, abandoning expectations?
- Are there pieces of yourself that have been lost for a long time?
- Are there areas of un-forgiveness or shame that I need to let go?
- Could this brokenness be more about breaking you open so you can create the change you need to make or have longed to make?



*Notes:*



# Repair

A broken white ceramic bowl with a crack, a black marker, and gold dust on a light background.

Let's review; you've chosen a broken vessel, gathered the pieces, allowed God to cover them, held them and examined. You've done some hard work. You should be proud!

It's now time for repair.

Have you ever felt like it takes a long time to start to see progress?

As we move into the art of repair, we think of the glue as being the connections in life, the alchemy of the chemicals mixing together to hold the pieces. When we think of connections, we think of our relationship with God, others, and self.

Relationships tell you who you are, whose you are, and what is expected of you.

There will be times the pieces don't fit right, the glue fails or your craftsmanship reveals you are new to this, but the process is not about perfection, it's about connection. Don't lose heart.

You may also have a gap in your piece. Before you fill it, consider what it represents something or someone who no longer has meaning for your life or perhaps a loss that we want to honor. If this is the case, leave it and illuminate its edges with gold. The cracks and creases can also be a symbol for allowing new things or people into your life.

As you seek to put the pieces back together, go gently on them, just as you should with yourself and others. We need to remember no one part of the process can meet all the needs in the same way our loved ones will never fulfill all our needs, nor are they equipped to carry all our burdens, and neither are we. Only God can do so.

God is not only the main glue but the visionary for the beauty that will unfold in the completion of your restoration. Your relationship with Him will define all your other relationships.

When you make God the center of your repair, each piece; your marriage, your friendships, your encounters with strangers will reflect this foundation.

When you keep Jesus at the center of it all and revolve every decision and every piece around Him; together, you will create His masterpiece.



*Notes:*





# Refinement

Your vessel is feeling whole again. Are you feeling any different? I hope you are!

In the art of refinement, we assess the vessel and seek to remove any rough edges.

It's not an effortful process, but a soft filing. The holes and cracks in your piece are part of the bowl's new life. They can represent loss, or pieces that no longer have meaning. They can also represent leaving space for new things to enter.

Just as the potter places a piece of himself into his art, we are the earthen pots in which God has placed His treasure. It is through our cracks and brokenness that God's light comes through us.



- What are the places in my life I need to continue to refine?
- Is there an unforgiveness I need to give up to Jesus?
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*Notes:*





# Gold

This is the final phase. This is when we finally start to see the beauty!

The gold is the glory! With gold infused into the cracks of the restored piece, we illuminate the journey of courage and resilience; the beauty of brokenness made known in the same way our scars reveal the beauty of our life journey. And every redemption story reveals the glory of God.

Some believe the vessel, and we, are stronger in the broken places. While this might be true sometimes, I have found the places we have been broken often grow into areas where softness, empathy, and kindness blossom. We become gentler, wiser, and more beautiful because in having endured, we understand the battle, and having suffered the pain, we understand the gift of compassion.

When we finally reach the other side of pain, we look back and see the things we needed to face, work through, and let go. We see the scars from which our light shines to illuminate the beauty that can only be found in our imperfection. And we see God refining us for His purpose.

When you come to the other side of broken—and you will—your story will become the compassion story for others. Your greatest messages and your most effective ministry will come out of your deepest hurts.

*We must reveal our scars, for in them, God's glory is revealed.*



*So now. Here. After we've walked through this process. Where do you see God?  
What phase are you in?*

Are you still just trying to recognize your **brokenness**?

Do you need to recognize that God has **chosen** you?

Maybe you are **gathering**. Don't be overwhelmed.

Is it **covering**? And you are recognizing that God is with you even in the brokenness?

Maybe you need to slow down and **hold** the pain today?

Is God inviting you to **examine** your story and see where he can add his glue?

Maybe you feel the progress of **repair**, but it can be arduous. Do you need to lean into your relationships?

Are you in the soft filing of **refinement**? Is God working down your hard edges?

Or are you finally starting to see the **gold**—the glory of God shining through your scars?

May I pray for you?

Jesus, holder of the universe. I know you are holding this precious one in your hands. You are strong enough to hold us together and gentle enough to fill all the cracks our brokenness leaves. As we courageously examine our broken places, will you remind us we are chosen by you, covered by you, held together by you, and healed by you—for our Good and for your Glory?

Will you show us today the beauty you have been creating in each of our stories? For the woman who feels alone in her pain—may she feel you with her. For the woman who feels too broken, may she feel you gathering every piece of her. For the woman who feels numb—will you bring her back to life. For the woman who wonders what you could be up to—will you show her how you are working things together for good?

In this moment, Jesus, we offer up our full selves to you, trusting that you are able to do what you promised—to make all things new.

Amen.



# THE ART OF BROKEN PIECES

## VERSE AND STEPS

### **I AM CHOSEN**

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.  
1 Peter 2:9

### **I AM BROKEN**

"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all"  
~2 Corinthians 4:16-17, NIV

### **I AM COVERED IN LOVE AND CLOTHED IN CHRIST**

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." You are already God's chosen ones, God's holy ones, God's loved ones.  
Now he says, put on the character that reflects your new identity.  
- Colossians 3:12

### **I GATHER MY PIECES AND GIVE THEM TO GOD**

"He said to His disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost."  
John 6:12

## **I HOLD THE PIECES AS I WAIT, LISTEN, AND INVITE GOD INTO MY TRIAL**

*"Then Jesus said, 'Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'"*

*Matthew 11:28-30*

## **I EXAMINE WHY AND I EXAMINE WHAT**

*"Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."*

*Romans 5: 3-5*

## **I USE THE GLUE OF CONNECTION TO HELP MEND THE PIECES OF REPAIR**

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. "*

*~2 Corinthians 1:3*

## **I ALLOW FOR REFINEMENT AND ACCEPT THE VOIDS**

*"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore and refine you, making you strong, firm and steadfast."*

*1 Peter 5:10*

## **I ILLUMINATE MY SCARS WITH GOD'S GOLDEN GLORY**

*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has withstood the test he will receive the golden crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.*

*~James 1:12*





# Supplies for doing on your own

For this purpose, it is not necessary to spend the \$150 + for a kit with authentic epoxies and gold.

If you fall in love with the art as I did, you can learn the original techniques and spend the money later. For now, an online Kintsugi kit for \$20-30 is more than sufficient.

There are a few on Etsy that work fine. These are the two I like best.

Option One

Option Two

Or you can get your own supplies from your local craft store.

- Broken vessel - I get my broken pieces from a local potter, Goodwill and from friends who know I work with Kintsugi.
- A cloth napkin that looks beautiful to you
- Elmers China and glass cement
- Large tooth pick or wooden kabob stick to apply glue
- Razor blade or small flat-edge Exacto knife to remove excess glue.
- Deco-art gold paint from your local craft store
- Rubber gloves (if you don't want to get your fingers sticky)
- A fine-point paint brush
- Patience and prayer

You may also want to pick up a pretty journal or notebook in which to record you thoughts and answer the questions.



Sample kit on Etsy



