

Crushed

Well, I have been that. **You have been what?** I have been crushed. I have been brokenhearted. I have been filled with pain and suffering. I have experienced seemingly unending tears. It's no fun, I will tell you that. I wouldn't wish pain and suffering and crushing brokenness on anyone. But I know a couple things for certain. **What's that?** Sin has broken this world. This life is not as you intended it. Nothing in this world has been left untouched by sin. No one will go through this life free of pain and suffering and crushing brokenness. You suffered. Why would I not suffer? You experienced pain. You went through what I would call, crushing brokenness. Why wouldn't I as well? **Doesn't that sound quite discouraging and depressing and defeating to you?** It might, except I also know something else as well. **What's that?** You are with me. You will never leave me. You will never forsake me. **No, I will not.** For that, I am thankful. For that, I am thankful. Your closeness to me gives me hope. So no, I am not discouraged or depresses or defeated. **That is very good.**

I have something to say that might sound a little weird. **What's that?** I wouldn't want to live a life that had no pain or suffering in it. I wouldn't exchange the crushing brokenness I have experienced for a pain free life on easy street. **You're right, that does sound a little weird.** Let me ask myself some questions. **Go ahead, this sounds interesting.** Would I know you as well if I had never gone through suffering? I don't think so. Would I have come to rely on you as much as I do if I had never experienced setbacks? I'm sure not. Have I not drawn near to you and you to me in the deepest and darkest and most painful moments of my life? Without, a doubt. Have I not experienced deeper measures of your love as I have cried out to you in anguish? That is for certain. Would I know you as well as I do if everything about my life was easy and went perfectly? Not hardly, maybe not even at all. Do I sound weird now? **No, not at all.** How about this? You have even made me able to comfort others with the comfort you have given to me. **That's great.** On top of that, you have held on to me. You have always lifted me up. You have carried me. You have led me though life. You have kept me moving forward with you. So no, I would not trade the life I have lived with you, for any other kind of life, especially one that seemed to promise me no pain or suffering or setbacks or defeat. **That's very good.** Keep on leading me Lord. **Yes, I will.**

Lord, I know this sin tainted world is filled with brokenness and suffering. I have experienced my share of pain. I am thankful you have been near to me when have I been brokenhearted. You have comforted and lifted me up and kept me moving forward with you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Close To The Brokenhearted*

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

NIV Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Near To The Brokenhearted*

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

ESV Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Close To The Brokenhearted*

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

NLT Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Close To Those Who Have A Broken Heart*

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit.

NKJV Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Near To The Brokenhearted*

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

NRSV Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *You'll Find God Right There*

If your heart is broken, you'll find GOD right there; if you're kicked in the gut, he'll help you catch your breath.

MSG Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Close To Those Who Are Of A Broken Heart*

The Lord is close to those who are of a broken heart and saves such as are crushed with sorrow for sin and are humbly and thoroughly penitent.

AMP Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Close To Those Whose Hearts Are Breaking*

The Lord is close to those whose hearts are breaking; he rescues those who are humbly sorry for their sins.

TLB Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Near To The Brokenhearted*

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

NASB Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ *Close To The Brokenhearted*

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed.

NCV Psalm 34:18

Becoming Like Christ – Psalm 34:18

In Context: *Read Psalm 34*

Begin With Prayer: *Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.*

Meditating On God's Word: *(What is God speaking to your heart?)*

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

Considering The Words: *(What words speak to your heart?)*

The LORD | is close to | the brokenhearted | and saves those | who are crushed | in spirit. Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: *(What prayer from your heart will you write?)*

Lord, I know this sin tainted world is filled with brokenness and suffering. I have experienced my share of pain. I am thankful you have been near to me when have I been brokenhearted. You have comforted and lifted me up and kept me moving forward with you. Amen

What It Means: *(What questions speak to your heart?)* (Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)

Why will you be certain to go through crushing experiences in this life that will break your heart?

When have you gone through a crushing experience that broke your heart?

What prayers have you prayed to the Lord when you were crushed and brokenhearted?

How has the Lord drawn near to you to comfort you when you were crushed and brokenhearted?

How has comfort you have received from the Lord made you able to comfort others in their brokenness?

How has the Lord healed your broken heart as you have continued to draw near to Him?

How has the Lord given you hope and joy so that you could keep on moving forward with Him?

Living It Out: *(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)*

Draw near to the Lord and receive His comfort when you are crushed and brokenhearted.

Seeing It Happen: *(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)*

Have faith that the Lord is close to you when you are crushed and brokenhearted.

Get Ready To Share: *(What can you share with others from your heart?)*

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has been close to you when you were brokenhearted.

Close With Prayer: *Quiet Yourself Before The Lord*

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you cry out to the Lord because He is close to you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will cry out to you because you are close to me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how will you meet me in my brokenness?
