

# BENDING OUR HEARTS | WEEK #5

No, I Don't! | March 17<sup>th</sup>



## WHAT'S THE ISSUE ANYWAY?

We are creatures of \_\_\_\_\_.

When we experience too much discomfort, we become \_\_\_\_\_.

Discouragement is a catalyst for \_\_\_\_\_.

Self-deception \_\_\_\_\_ decision-making, \_\_\_\_\_

personal growth and causes us to \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities for healing.

## WHAT WISDOM DOES SCRIPTURE OFFER US?

Numbers 21:4-9

Discomfort led to discouragement which led to self-deception and \_\_\_\_\_.

Blame and self-deception were \_\_\_\_\_ and breaking the Israelites' spirit.

Only when they \_\_\_\_\_ at what was poisoning them could they find healing.

John 12:32 John believed that the \_\_\_\_\_ was a place of healing.

## DON'T MISS THIS PRAYER!

Bend my heart towards \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ does not break me.

## HOW CAN I LIVE THIS IN MY EVERYDAY, NORMAL LIFE?

\_\_\_\_\_ Self-Reflection

\_\_\_\_\_ Curiosity and Open-Mindedness

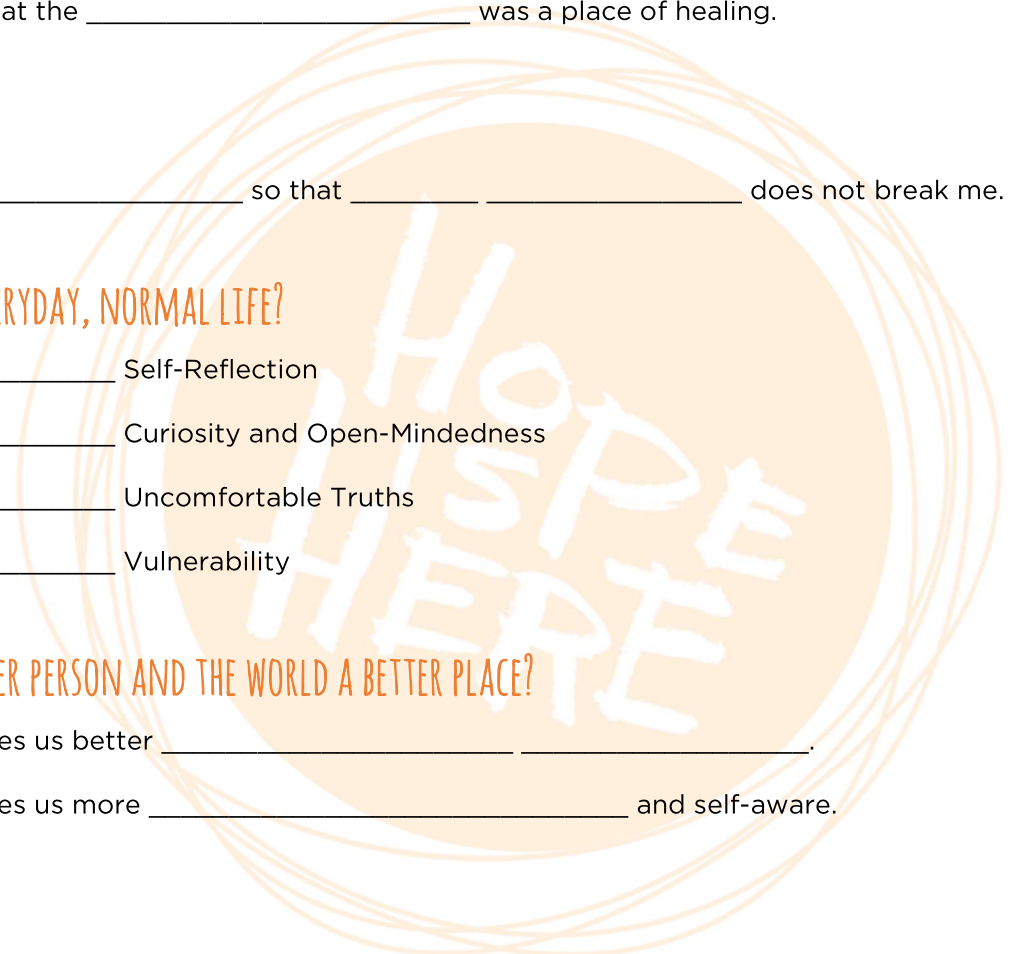
\_\_\_\_\_ Uncomfortable Truths

\_\_\_\_\_ Vulnerability

## HOW DOES THIS MAKE ME A BETTER PERSON AND THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE?

Taming self-deception makes us better \_\_\_\_\_.

Taming self-deception makes us more \_\_\_\_\_ and self-aware.



## WHAT IS GOD INVITING YOU INTO TODAY?

1. Plan to attend Good Friday service.
2. Start a self-awareness journal.

## THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS:

1. How do you typically respond when someone points out a flaw or mistake in your life? Are you open to feedback, or do you tend to become defensive or dismissive?
2. Think about a time when you felt tempted to rewrite history or justify past decisions to avoid discomfort or confrontation. What were the consequences of this self-deception, and how did it affect your relationships or personal growth?
3. Reflect on the significance of the bronze serpent in the biblical narrative as a symbol of healing and redemption. What "poison" or self-deception in your life do you need to confront to experience healing and transformation?
4. Think about the practical strategies for combating self-deception outlined in the sermon, such as self-reflection, curiosity, and vulnerability. Which of these strategies resonate with you, and how can you incorporate them into your daily life?
5. As you reflect on the sermon and its implications for your life, what steps can you take to cultivate greater honesty, self-awareness, and authenticity in your thoughts, words, and actions? How can you invite God's guidance and grace into this journey of transformation and renewal?

