KINTSUGI:
THE STORY OF OUR SCARS

I have become like broken pottery. (Psalm 31:12)

THE ART OF KINTSUGI

Kintsugi, meaning "to mend with gold," is the ancient Japanese art of mending broken pottery with a lacquer made from poison sumac dusted with powdered gold. Tea masters will keep the broken fragments of precious tea bowls for generations to have them mended by artisans skilled in kintsugi.

Instead of discarding what is broken, an artist invests weeks (sometimes months) on the repairs, creating something even more beautiful, valuable, and stronger than it was before. The pottery now tells a story that is highlighted by its golden "scars."

REDEMPTION IS A SLOW AND DELIBERATE JOURNEY

God pursues the places where we have been wounded, weakened, or failed, where we are vulnerable, where anxiety spins and depression sinks, where loneliness is rampant and grief lingers, and where suffering and loss are constant or sustained.

Those are also the places where the veil thins and God's glory is resplendent. Like kintsugi, redemption is a slow and deliberate journey, only possible after each broken piece is pondered, every hairline crack observed, and each wound tenderly beheld.

BEAUTY FROM ASHES, PURPOSE FROM BROKENNESS

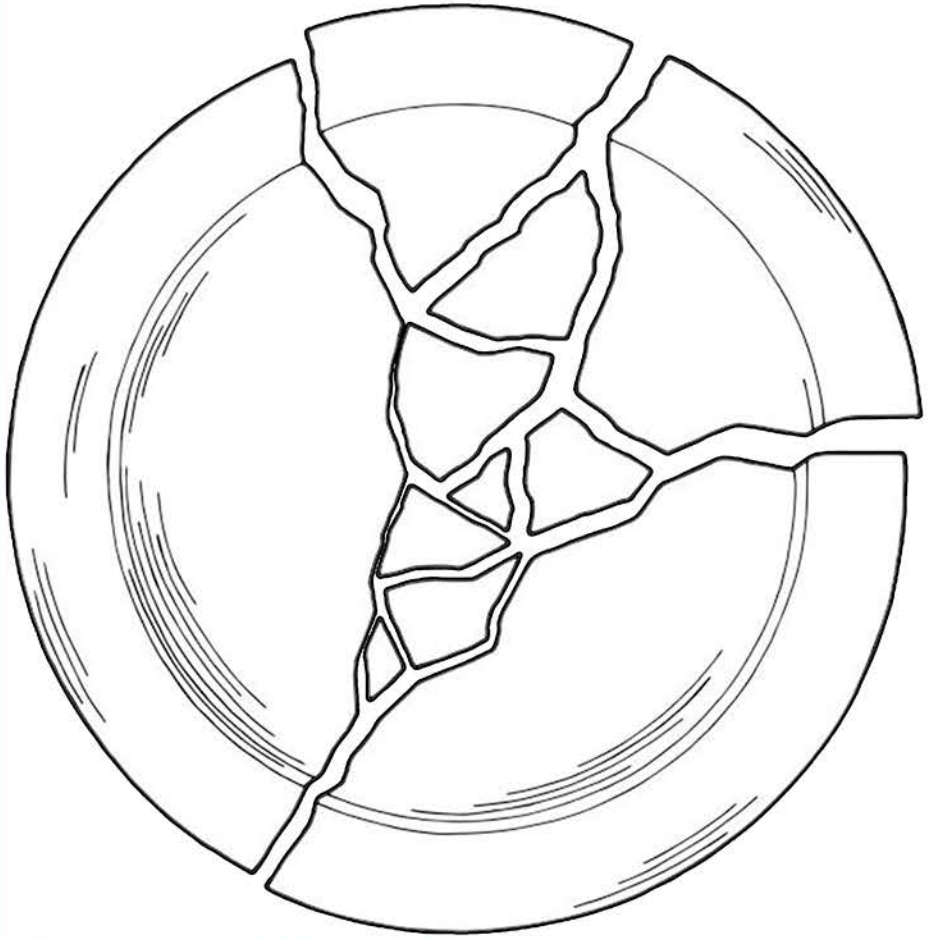
When we create despite our wounds, traumas, catastrophic losses, overwhelming grief, debilitating pain, prolonged loneliness, and deep suffering, we reveal the creativity woven into our DNA. We create because our God is the Creator. He did not promise us an easy life, but He did promise us an abundant life.

When we open our hands and hearts (especially when they are most vulnerable), God reaches down, touches the broken edges, scoops up the shattered fragments, and runs His fingers over each fracture, bringing beauty from ashes, purpose from brokenness, and empathy and compassion from devastation.

BROKENNESS ⇨ NEW BEAUTY, NEW WORTH

Our brokenness is part of our unique story and God's redeeming love. Write a wound or scar on each broken piece of the plate, then choose a color that speaks to your soul and fill in the fractures and gaps.

God graciously and tenderly redeems our scars, making us stronger, more beautiful, and more valuable than (we were) before.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- How have you been hurt?
- What are the broken pieces of your story?
- What is causing you pain?
- How is God calling you to serve from your broken places?
- How is He using your scars to comfort or encourage others?