



PARTICIPANT HANDOUT: CLIFFHANGER

Session 2: Mount Sinai

Broken Tablets

The first set of the tablets bearing the Ten Commandments were destroyed by Moses when he came down the mountain and found the Israelites worshipping a golden calf idol. What happened to those broken tablets? According to tradition, as described in the Jewish Talmud, the broken pieces were picked up carefully by Moses and placed in the ark of the covenant, along with the second, whole set of tablets.

Deep is the significance in the meaning of this tradition, for brokenness and wholeness live side by side in each one of us. Every one of us will experience, grief, loss, and disappointment in our lives. And we will also all experience times of joy and accomplishment. Together, brokenness and wholeness are a reflection of our human condition.

As the ark of the covenant went before the Israelites in all of their journeys to the Promised Land, God carried both the brokenness and wholeness of his people with him.

We can find great comfort in knowing that God carries our brokenness, for he understands it. It was God's only Son who was broken so that all of us could be made whole. The restoration of the broken pieces of our lives is the promise that God provides in Jesus.