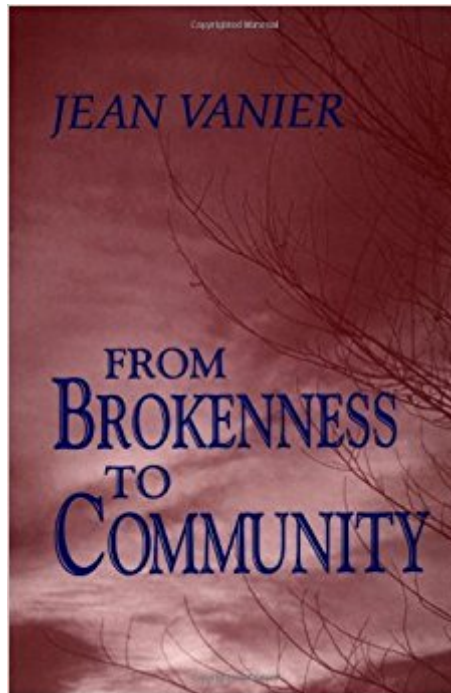




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# From Brokenness To Community (Harold M. Wit Lectures)



## Synopsis

The lectures in this volume witness the importance of the meeting between the university of the learned and the university of the poor. From them a deep understanding of true discipleship emerges.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

All who are part of our culture of success will be challenged by Vanier's vision of life in community.  
--Weavings

After years of studying and teaching philosophy, Jean Vanier founded L'Arche, named after Noah's ark, a network of more than one hundred communities in thirty countries, inhabited by people with disabilities and their caregivers. Vanier is the son of former governor general of Canada Georges Vanier. Jean Vanier is also co-founder, with Marie-Hélène Mathieu, of Faith and Light, which brings together people with disabilities and their family and friends. There are now 1,300 Faith and Light communities in seventy-five countries.

Another awesome book by Jean Vanier. This would be great reading for any community to share in. When I was a part of a community of people with disabilities and their families, I took parts of this book as weekly meditation material and it resonated so deeply. But anyone who is a part of a

community life would benefit from this book, especially if the community seems to be "broken". This is one I keep on my bookshelf, and if it disappears (as they do sometimes), I buy another one.

Vanier is a rare, authentic individual. I don't know of a smaller book that is so large on wisdom. If you ask those that have been through a formation program for the gem of their experience, it often comes in the form of "embrace your shadow." From Brokenness to Community makes the same point. Vulnerable, we become approachable. Community is possible. Aware of our shadow, we become less judgmental. Community is possible. The residents of Vanier's community have severe physical and mental handicaps which soon test the souls of "regular" community members who support them. Once anger, jealousy, rivalry and impatience is exposed, it can be acknowledged and dealt with. The "evil" is not so much in the community as it is in ME. Contact with the handicapped residents is healing, transformational. People become "real." Community results from the relationship established among authentic people. "Elitism is the sickness of us all...Healing takes place at the bottom of the ladder, not at the top." -Jack H. Bender, author of Disregarded: Transforming the School and Workplace through Deep Respect and Courage

In this short read, Jean Vanier touches on some of the primary heart issues with which people struggle. He is talking directly from his experience with his wisdom from the experience of working with and loving disabled people. One theme is give your life to others and see how God has designed us to live in community. The thoughts I had while reading is how to diagnose my own heart and my motives. Once my own agenda is stripped away and my actions are solely for others, which is rare, then I can see my own heart and superficial humility - and then there is an opportunity for real growth. This should be on the bookshelf of anyone seeking to serve others. There are many nuggets of wisdom in his words regardless of the people in your life: children, parents, coworkers, neighbors, etc.

Vanier is one of the rare gifts from God that a generation gets and doesn't realize is a gift until almost the end of their journey. This is a timeless resource for ministers and lay people alike who are looking for how to experience and share God in a more visceral way.

Good book to read

Best insight on community I have ever read; and I especially like the thought of him speaking these

words to divinity school faculty and students. Wish I could have heard it!

Jean Vanier's saintly service to the mentally and physically handicapped embraces an understanding of selfless love that Vanier articulates so very effectively in this short book. We truly need to attend to the least of our brethren if we are to fathom the wonder and power of what Christians call *agapē* and Buddhists *karuna*. Take a chance: reading this little book might change your life.

You know how you read a book and you think, not much to it. In fact, only about a chapters worth of content is worth anything at all. Could have been a pamphlet instead of a book. Well, this book is short and every paragraph is packed with insights and profound, life changing words. Worth every penny!

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