



From Broken to Blessed

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Focus We all came from Adam and Eve—a broken family—but God wants us to go from broken to blessed.

Fun What outdoor activities do you enjoy? When have you seen or experienced evidence of God in nature? Please share.

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 15:12–29; Matthew 26:14–15; Philippians 2:3

1. Give me.

As children, we all start out in the *give me* stage—selfish. In Luke 15:12, the youngest son said, “Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.” This is where we all start. Even as spiritual children, we get saved for selfish reasons. We don’t want to go to hell. Even marriages begin this way. We have a *give me* mentality. We go through stages in life, but God desires that we grow out of the *give me* stage.

2. Use me.

We say, “Use me,” because we’re ambitious and immature. It’s not because we want to do something for God. It’s because we want to be important and noticed. We start by saying, “I want you to *give me something* that will make me happy,” and then we think, “I want to *do something* that will make me happy,” which is still self-serving. Selfishness destroys families.

3. Search me.

As we mature, we search our own hearts and ask God to *search us*. We stop blaming others and give up control. We ask, “What does God want to change in me?” Pride is what keeps us from this stage of maturation. Pride tries to keep us

unteachable and unreachable. With maturity, we learn we are only responsible for our *own* actions and reactions.

4. **Make me.**

A mature believer invites God to make them into what He wants. We start saying, “Make me into a vessel fit for the Master’s use.” God wants us to go from broken to blessed, but blessings come when we move from selfishness to generosity. This happens when we move from what God can do for *us* to what we can do for *others*.

Group Dynamics Idea With all the fall festivities happening, now is the perfect time to plan a game night. This is a great way to invite first-time visitors to your group. Have three different games going on at the same time. Divide everyone up, and after 30 min, have everyone switch to a different game. Encourage group members to interact with different people each time. This is a fun and easy way to include new people into your small group. Have group members sign up to bring either snacks or drinks.

Discuss

1. What does having a *give me* attitude look like for a child, and how does that compare to a *give me* attitude in an adult? How are they the same?
2. Often, as believers, we are told that saying, “Lord, use me!” is a good thing. But Pastor Robert said it was a less mature response. What surprised you the most about his perspective that “Lord, use me!” is a lower level of maturation? Do you agree or disagree, and why?
3. What have you been taught in the past about being *used* by God? As an adult, what is your view of what being *used* by God looks like?
4. Read Psalm 139:23–24. Why is David praying, “God search me,” and what does that mean for us as believers? What would *searching your heart* look like in your life?
5. What is the difference between a relationship with God based on the *give me* level versus the *make me* level?

6. How would our lives be different if we were living from the *make me* level each day? What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- We all begin at an immature stage of *give me*.
- As we grow, we move to *use me*.
- As mature believers, we ask God to *search me* and *make me*.

Prayer Heavenly Father, we thank You for the Father's heart You have for us—Your children. Help us to cultivate a heart attitude of gratitude. Help us to mature and come to the place where we search our hearts and ask You to search us as well. Help us to have a lifestyle of repentance as we allow You to make us into vessels of honor for Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Be intentional about making new visitors feel welcome and about making your game night fun! Play music and stimulate conversations within the group by strolling around to the different game areas. Simply ask someone to talk about their favorite movie, sport, band, or fall activity to get the ball rolling.