



GOD CAN USE BROKEN THINGS

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: God uses people to accomplish His mission - not perfect, flawless people, but real humans with real issues. It doesn't take perfection to be useful to God, but it does take the right effort and attitude.

2. BIBLE VERSE

God called Noah, and entrusted him with the survival of the entire human race.

Genesis 6:13-14 [NLT]

"So God said to Noah, 'I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth! Build a large boat from cypress wood...'"

But Noah had his own issues.

Genesis 9:20-21 [NLT] *"After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. One day he drank some wine he had made, and he became drunk and lay naked inside his tent."*

Q. Why do you think the story from Genesis 9 was included in the Bible? What can we learn from it?

Q. How do you think Noah felt after the whole incident?

3. DISCUSSION

Even after his drunken experience, Noah had a huge role in God's mission. He lived for another 349 years, teaching the new generations about God (he even lived alongside Abram for 58 years!). God doesn't expect perfection, but He does expect humility, submission, and resiliency. If Noah had given up on serving God after his embarrassing moral failure, the entire human race would have been missing a huge wealth of knowledge about God and the times before the flood. The key is to repent, put it in the past and keep following God's direction.
When you fall, don't give up - get up!

Q. Have you ever felt like you were disqualified to serve God because of mistakes / sins?

Q. If God called Noah (a drunk), David (an adulterer and murderer), and Peter (who denied he even knew Jesus), do you think He would disqualify you for your issues?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family and thank God for calling you to serve Him. Ask Him to keep you from sin, and to help you get back up and keep going when you fall.



THE PRAYING MANTIS

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. POWER VERSE: 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Keep on praying." Watts Up: "P-R-A-Y, Lift Your Eyes Up To The Sky & Pray!"

This week, we start a brand new series called, "Bugs." In this series, we will learn some big lessons from different bugs. In this lesson, we are encouraged to talk to God daily. He is our best friend.

God wants the best for all of us. We can share with Him all the things on our minds and hearts.

2. BIBLE VERSE:

Luke 18:9-14 *Jesus told a story to some people who were sure they were right with God. They looked down on everyone else. 10 He said to them, "Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee. The other was a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed. 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people,' he said. 'I am not like robbers or those who do other evil things. I am not like those who commit adultery. I am not even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week. And I give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood farther away than the Pharisee. He would not even look up to heaven. He brought his hand to his heart and prayed. He said, 'God, have mercy on me. I am a sinner.' 14 "I tell you, the tax collector went home accepted by God. But not the Pharisee. All those who lift themselves up will be made humble. And those who make themselves humble will be lifted up."*



Q. What kind of prayer did the Pharisee pray? What about the tax collector?

Q. Which prayer do you think was most pleasing to God?

3. DISCUSSION:

Life is full of choices. It's so easy to rely on our own minds and power to make those hard decisions. God has provided a way for each of us to plug into His power and wisdom through prayer.

Too often, we choose the advice of friends, family, internet, books, television, etc., before we ever go to the source of all wisdom - God. Prayer changes things. We must remember that prayer should be our first option, not our last.

Q. Where do you usually go to for advice when facing a tough situation?

Q. How do you think we can make prayer a priority?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Lead your child in the "PRAY" method of prayer. Walk them through Praise, Repentance, Asking For Others, and then Yourself. Remind them that prayer is an essential part of our lives. It is how we stay close to God. Remind them, "When you see a praying mantis, let it remind you of the importance of prayer."