

## **Broken, But Useful!**

"Made For This Moment" series- Part 01

*Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following:* Name a time (which could include ongoing circumstances) when life didn't turn out as you'd hoped it would. How did you handle (or are handling) the situation?

*"Let's get on the same page" illustration:*

Make a list of things that are "better" when they are broken (for example: a glowstick)

In a recent lesson, Pastor Brandon taught that much like today, Queen Ester lived in a very broken world filled with sin, corruption, greed, and desperation. He pointed out that in times like this we must commit to being a part of the solution, work for good from where you are, speak with boldness for God's purpose, and put it all on the line for what you believe.

A broken world is not an excuse for apathy and inactivity!

Perhaps the closest view that we all have of brokenness is when we look at ourselves and see our own personal faults, sins, and weaknesses. In the following Scriptures, the Apostle Paul describes a time in his life when due to his own brokenness; he discovers that God can make him useable.

### **Book: 2 Corinthians 12:1-10**

2Co 12:1 This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord.

2Co 12:2 I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows.

2Co 12:3 Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know

2Co 12:4 that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.

2Co 12:5 That experience is worth boasting about, but I'm not going to do it. I will boast only about my weaknesses.

2Co 12:6 If I wanted to boast, I would be no fool in doing so, because I would be telling the truth. But I won't do it, because I don't want anyone to give me credit beyond what they can see in my life or hear in my message,

2Co 12:7 even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.

2Co 12:8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away.

2Co 12:9 Each time He said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me.

2Co 12:10 That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

***Let's get into the Word:***

According to 12:7, why might Paul have been tempted to boast?

Using verses 7-10, define a "thorn in the flesh" and discuss how a "thorn" can prevent us from experiencing pride in ourselves.

List areas in your life in which you are sometimes prideful.

If Satan were to try to invalidate you as a person or as a servant of the Lord, how might he do it?

Are you sensing spiritual attacks from the enemy right now and if so, how is your relationship with God?

How might God's truths about the source of our worth help us view ourselves when we fail or accomplish less than we dreamed of doing? When our bodies fail us?

God told Paul "no" three times. What does this say to those who teach that all Christians who are truly walking with God will have disease-free, trouble-free lives?

Discuss how God's power works best in our times of weaknesses.

*Questions for my next quiet time:*

What has God said to me in this study?

What specific things am I praying for in regard to myself?

Who do I know that I need to share the truths from this study with this week?