

WEEK 10 DAY 3

MAIN POINT:

Recovery is not the end of God's plan for you. God wants to take your mess and make it a message.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

(2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

DRAFT

FULFILLING YOUR GOD-GIVEN PURPOSE

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for saving me from my destructive ways, and giving me a future where I can share your good news. Show me how my mess can be a message that glorifies you and comforts others.

In coming to *re:generation*, we are all admitting that we have, in one or more ways, made a mess of things. Our addictions, brokenness, and struggles with sin bring us to the point where we must acknowledge we are incapable of fixing things on our own. If we are not careful, we may be tempted to believe the lie that we are too far gone to ever be useful to God. Thankfully, this is not true!

In fact, the Bible tells us that God still has plans for us. If we repent from sin and turn to God, he will use our stories for his glory and to help others. As we move through recovery, this reality can bring tremendous hope. To help us believe this truth, God gives us many examples. The Bible is filled with people that God used in spite of their brokenness.

King David was a great, God-appointed, ruler of Israel who was described as a man after God's own heart. But, David committed adultery. He used his power to sleep with another man's wife. He then tried to cover it up by killing her husband (2 Samuel 11-12). It would be easy to assume God was done with David. However, when he repented, God chose to use his story. David went on to write many of the most vulnerable and repentant Psalms in the Bible. His mess became a message that now gives God's people comfort and direction.

In the New Testament, a man named Paul so hated the message of Jesus, that he hunted down, imprisoned, and persecuted Christians. Paul then encountered the risen Jesus, and everything changed. He finally saw Jesus for who he really is, the Son of God who died for the sins of the world. Once violent and angry, Paul then spent the rest of his life helping others see the truth about Jesus.

Here is a comforting truth: God has a plan to use those who turn from their sin to follow him. Christ came to free us from slavery to sin, and to give us a new purpose and mission. Though we might feel broken beyond repair, Christ can make us new. We still have opportunities to share God's truth with others. No matter where we are at, God can take our messes and make them his message.

APPLICATION: Do you know someone who needs hope? Share with that person what God is doing in your life today. Invite him or her to come with you to *re:generation* to see what you are learning about forgiveness, restoration, and peace.