



**Key Scriptures:** Philippians 3:5-6, Acts 9:1-5, 17-20, Exodus 5:1-9

**Main Point:** *Even from among the mess can come extreme blessing.*

## Welcome

Good evening [your youth group]! I'm so pumped to be with you guys tonight! For those of you that are new here or are visiting with us, we're glad you're here. We hope you have enjoyed your time with us so far and hope that you come back every opportunity that you have.

If by some off chance you have no idea who I am, my name is [your name] and I'm the [your role] here at [your church] and it is an honor to be able to bring tonight's message to you! I hope you came ready and willing to let God speak truth into your life tonight!

Before we begin, I want to pray for our time together. [Teacher's Note: Pray that God will use you to speak into your teenagers the things He wants for them to hear. Pray that they will have ears that are ready to hear and hearts that are ready to soak it up.]

## Introduction

[Teacher's Note: Tailor the introduction to fit your individual circumstance. The goal is to get your students thinking about how messy life can be. I showed them a photo of my family so they can connect with their eyes and their ears. Feel free to use my example below.]

Many of you know that my wife and I have three children in our house. We have a seven-year-old son, a four-year-old son, and an almost two-year-old daughter. And as if that weren't enough, we're going to be adding a third boy to the mix sometime in October.

And you don't have to be a math whiz to figure out that my family will soon have six people living in a three-bedroom, 1800 sq. ft. house. I know nuts, right? We've been trying to rectify that issue (as far as the house is concerned) but so far, we've been unsuccessful.

As you can imagine, our house doesn't always stay in a constant state of cleanliness. Sometimes it looks like this...

[Teacher's Note: Show a slide of a messy living room or kitchen. It would make it more personal if you showed the students a photo of your living room when its super messy.]

Our kids leave toys out, throw food in the floor, have accidents, rip up books, track mud in. You name it and our kids have done it.

But you know what? As annoying and frustrating and infuriating as the repeated nature of the mess is, our kids are a huge blessing in our lives.

My oldest is the smartest kid I've ever met and he makes me so proud to be his dad. Middle A has the cutest voice and I really relate with his rough and tumble spirit. Middle B, well she's the princess. She has me wrapped around her little finger already and she's not even two yet.

So, despite the constant frustration, the constant cleaning up, and the constant correction, we are so blessed to have our children in our lives.

As human beings, very early on we learn that life is messy. Bad things happen to us and bad things happen because of us.

Maybe things are messy in your life right now either because of something you've done or because of what someone else has done to you. Either way, you've come to find yourself in a bit of a mess.

Maybe you've done something that cost you a position on the team or a good relationship. Maybe you've done poorly in a class because of your laziness. Maybe you've said the wrong thing to the wrong people at the wrong time and it's blown up in your face.

I want you to know that this evening, I'm not going to beat you over the head with what you could've done differently in your particular situation. My goal today is to encourage you with one profound statement. It's a statement that I'll say over and over again tonight. That statement is simply this:

*Even from among the mess can come extreme blessing.*

## Lesson

Now to highlight this point from what we see in Scripture, I want to show you two examples of blessings that come out of absolute mess.

The first is an example of when the mess is your fault and the second is when it's the fault of someone else.

Turn in your Bibles to Philippians 3. We're going to talk about a man that a lot of us are familiar with. We of know him as the Apostle Paul today, but early on in church history, he was known as Saul of Tarsus.

Let's read how Paul described himself...

### Philippians 3:5-6 (NLT)

**5** *I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6* *I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.*

You see, before Paul was Paul, he considered himself a super-Jew – circumcised, taught under Jewish law, member of the Pharisees, zeal, devotion, obedience. You can't get much more righteous than that.

The only problem with being a 'super-Jew' during the time of Jesus was that when He came preaching about salvation for all and fulfilling the OT law, it seemed like it flew in the face of everything you had ever known, everything your ancestors were about, everything your family was about, everything you learned about in Jewish school.

And it felt like Jesus told the Jews to abandon all of that. Of course, he wasn't, but that's what it felt like.

So, when the New Testament church was formed early on in the book of Acts 'super-Jew' Saul sprang into action. He made it his life's mission to

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