

Step One

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Every kid came with what I jokingly called "their box or bag of trash"

They were living “mine-fields”

Hurt people hurt people.

The love we gave them
didn't heal them
like I had expected it to.

**I was so frustrated,
and so angry.**

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Lesson Two: Learn. Obey. Share. Give.

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If Lesson One is missing or damaged, Lesson Two makes no sense and becomes impossible.

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The trust, or lack of trust, we form in our first two years becomes the lens through which we view everything else.

**My trauma kids started out
believing "I am alone."**

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The correction they receive just deepens their shame and insecurity.

The real “box of trash” they brought with them was their broken identity.

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attachment to Him.

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Instead of running back to God, they ran from Him, confirming their new,
broken identity as alone, shameful, and insecure.

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**But it is bad because it is broken, and it is broken because it has
come detached from God and become unable to trust Him.**
It sees everything through the broken lens of shame and insecurity,
and it acts on that broken identity.

Sin used what was good to bring about my condemnation to death. So we can see how terrible sin really is. It uses God's good commands for its own evil purposes.

So the trouble is not with God's law, for it is spiritual and good.

The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate.

**But if I know that what I am doing is wrong,
this shows that I agree that the law is good.**

**So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin
living in me that does it. And I know that
nothing good lives in me, that is, in my
sinful nature.**

I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.

But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind.

This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me. Oh, what a miserable person I am!

Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

Romans 7:13-24

Does that mean there is no hope for us? No!

The very next verse says,

"Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord."

God's perfect plan in Christ to adopt us and redeem us means He is trying to take us to a place we've never been and couldn't possibly find on our own.

It's a place of true attachment to God, a place of belonging and being beloved, with security and joy we can't even begin to imagine.

Jesus has been there. He lives there!

**He longs to take us there to be with
Him if we will trust Him!**

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WE HAVE TO BE MADE ABLE TO TRUST HIM.

You must be born again.

**We have to let God rebuild
our foundation, our identity,
our attachment.**

**We have to obey what
He tells us to do.**

**We have to respond righteously
to hardship, trial, adversity, crisis.**

What in my story has damaged Step One?

What in me current life hinders me from believing Lesson One?

To the extent that I can see that Lesson One is missing or damaged in my own heart, what have I collected in my "bag of trash" to try to compensate for it?

Where do I see myself in the fire story?

Which of these feels most significant to my heart's search for security?

(Be really honest--no Sunday School answers.)

- Wealth and resources I have stored up
- A strong economy and stable income for the foreseeable future
- Good health for the foreseeable future
- Safety from natural disasters, crime, & war
- Healthy and stable relationships
- My ability to adapt, learn, understand, manage, survive, overcome
- Something else
- Knowing I am loved by a good God who will never leave me

What would it look like if I really trusted God? What would it feel like?

Pray for God to truly give me new birth and fill me with His Spirit of Adoption so I know Him as my Daddy.

What is the first step of direct obedience to God I must take to move forward in trust?

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources God will empower you
with inner strength through his Spirit.

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him.

Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should,
how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life
and power that comes from God.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to
accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church
and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.