

Leader's Conclusion

Brokenness seems bad. We all are broken in some way. The good news is, just like the broken crayons, God can still use us. Maybe God even uses brokenness to get our attention off of ourselves and onto Him, so he can make good use of it. If you think back to your crayon days, how long before a lot of them were broken, or used up, or no longer sharp.

But, what if our box of crayons is so bad, no self-respecting preschooler would even consider using them? What if you don't feel good enough about yourself that we can make it work. And then we complain about what we do not have. We complain about the colors that are missing. We complain about the dull tips. We complain about not knowing if the crayon was magenta or red violet because somebody removed the wrapper.

We see our box of crayons as not good enough. We spend our time wishing for something else. We refuse to start coloring....and as a result we miss out on the possibility that our used box of crayons present.

BUT...If we shift our focus from what is missing to what we have, our perspective on this used box of crayons transforms.

Our questions change from, "Why are my crayons broken?" to "What can I do with my broken crayon?" We can find good uses for the colors we do have. We can sharpen dull tips. We can see the beauty of the color that is normally hidden underneath the wrapper.

Pablo Picasso put it this way: If I don't have red, I use blue. He created some masterpieces using just blue.

The empty half of the crayon box or a crayon simply isn't there. Those crayons are long gone. Looking for them is a lost cause. Complaining about them is a waste of time.

When we focus on what is missing from our lives we are unable to live a better story. We can't paint in blue because we can't stop thinking about red. But we can do something with what we do have.

Lacking red now becomes an opportunity to discover the possibilities that blue has to offer. To develop different shades of blue. To paint a blue sky. To paint the ocean blue. To even paint a blue apple.

It is possible to create a masterpiece with a broken set of crayons. You are a masterpiece that God has created.

Leader make any closing comments they wish before ending the retreat.