



Elevation Family  
Ministries  
January 2024

# LIVING AS THE BELOVED



These four words: taken, blessed, broken, and given, represent an understandable picture of the life of Jesus. Jesus was taken by God, blessed, broken on the cross, and given to the world.

We teach that if we can live like this, the world will recognize Jesus in us.



## GIVEN

We seek to lead those we serve into spiritual formation; to shift from self to other. We teach that we are not here for ourselves. When we are willing to pour ourselves out for others for His sake, we can trust we will move from being painfully enslaved to our own wants to living with a commitment to seeing others know God and flourish.

## TAKEN (CHOSEN)

We are chosen by God, precious in His eyes, and each of us have a unique role to play in God's story.



## BLESSED

To say good things. Each time we bless those we serve; we are affirming their belovedness. This can be as simple as saying, "I want you to know who you are: a very special person, and deeply loved by God."

An example we use to help our young disciples understand their spiritual lives as the beloved sons and daughters of God

## THE LAST SUPPER

And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them (Luke 22:19, NIV)

## BROKEN

We teach that we will never be filled with joy and fully healed if we do not embrace our brokenness and dare to put our brokenness under the blessing. Even our greatest hurt, if put under the blessing, can give us empathy for someone in the same pain.



For the next four months, we will highlight one of the four words and illustrate how our young disciples are growing in each of these areas.

# TALON

## GOD'S BELOVED



As discussed in previous newsletters, kids who are bullied can experience negative physical, social, emotional, academic, and mental health issues. Most of all, those who are bullied, experience self-rejection as the darkness of not feeling welcome in this world permeates all aspects of their perceptions of self-worth. Nouwen (1995) wrote, “Self-rejection is the greatest enemy of the spiritual life because it contradicts the sacred voice that calls us the Beloved.”

Before Talon entered Elevation last year, he had spent years in social isolation in a well-intended attempt to shield him from the same bullying his older brother had experienced. Basic skills such as eye contact and speaking clearly were not developed, and his introverted nature made it difficult for him to initiate interactions with peers. Elevation’s culture of demonstrating love for one another as God loves us (John 13:34) has allowed Talon to feel safe, to take social risks, and to become fully engaged in our discipleship program.

Since starting with us, Talon has shown growth socially, emotionally, academically, and most importantly, spiritually. Talon has opened up to peers and staff, but also to God. He accepts his identity as a beloved son of God and has identified the gifts that God has given him to serve the body of believers. Talon has begun working on ways in which he can utilize his own unique gifts to share the love of Christ with those around him and to strengthen the body of believers. One of Talon’s gifts includes words of wisdom; he has come a long way from struggling to maintain eye contact with those around him to imputing words of wisdom into the lives of his fellow young disciples. Talon has emerged as a leader and continues to encourage his fellow young disciples to strive to “do all things heartily as unto the Lord and not unto man” (Col. 3:23) rather than work only for temporal rewards.

### Funding the Journey

Our goal is for financial constraints to not be a barrier to finding hope and healing in Christ.

With your financial support, we can do just that.

You may donate online at [elevationfamilyministries.org](http://elevationfamilyministries.org) or by sending a check in the enclosed envelope.