



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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## Dragon Ball Super: Broly (2019) | *Can Everyone Change?* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

### PRESS START

Here's fun trivia for everyone! You may have noticed Broly had two significant marks on his body: A scar on the upper left of his abs, and a giant cross-shaped scar on his left pec. These were references to his previous appearances in the non-canon movies. Goku struck him in *Dragon Ball Z: Broly - Legendary Super Saiyan* (1993), and his heart exploded in his chest in *Dragon Ball Z: Broly - Second Coming* (1994).

**Ask: If you could recreate a character, what homages from their original appearances would you want to add?**

### EQUIP

This is the first time Broly is adequately introduced into Dragon Ball canon. Akira Toriyama took time to carefully craft a fascinating backstory that made Broly a bit more of a tragic character than he was portrayed in the past. For those who have seen the original Broly movie, you may have appreciated the callbacks and the way they filled in some exciting story aspects. That said, Broly's story is different. In the original movie, Broly is played out to be more of a wild force with an unwarranted hatred for Goku. This is obviously in contrast to what we just saw where, yes, Broly is a force to be reckoned with, but he's also been mainly trained to obey his father and hate anything related to King Vegeta. We see this clearly when Paragus says, "I'll raise him to be a mighty warrior, and one day, I will have my revenge!"

Toriyama's original 3-hour script may dive deeper into the pain Broly went through, but we certainly see a bit of the abuse Broly suffered when he tells the story of losing his only friend. Paragus' purposeful agitation of the giant creature that forced Broly to fight his friend is a clear sign of Paragus' manipulation to prepare his son for his own purposes.

**Ask: Keeping that in mind, adding in the "shock collar" Paragus made Broly wear, what kind of mindset do you think Broly had?**

In this story, Broly is clearly a hurt, abused, and brainwashed individual. Does he have anger issues and issues controlling his own abilities? Yes, absolutely. But at the same time, he has tragically been brought up in a way that makes him believe he can be nothing better and that there is nothing better for him. The real question, however, is this: Does he have to be this way?

### LEVEL UP

It's not often Goku is a wealth of wisdom, yet in this movie, he says something very profound to Broly in the midst of the fight. "You can stop fighting. You don't have to listen to what the others have told you to do." The reason this is profound is simple: Broly has genuinely come to the point that he believes there are no options. He is the epitome of someone who thinks it's hopeless to change. Even when he has a glimmer of insight when talking with Cheelai and Lemo, he stops the conversation and warns them not to speak ill of his father.

Sadly, a lot of people think the same way Broly does. They have lived a life for so long that they think there's no hope of change. Yet we have example after example in scripture where people can not only change, but become mighty movers and shakers in the Kingdom of God. One such individual is a man named Saul, better known to us today as the Apostle Paul. Let's take a look at his profile.

**Read: Acts 22:3**

**Ask: What does this tell us about Paul?**

From this verse, we learn a great deal about Paul's background. First, we learn he is, in fact, Jewish, but not just a Jew by race, but by faith. He was raised at the feet of Rabbi Gamaliel. Gamaliel was a highly honored Pharisee who was mentioned not only in scriptures, but also by the historian Josephus and even the Talmud. In all these references, we discover Gamaliel's understanding of the scriptures was not something to be looked down upon. In Judaic culture, Paul's invoking of his teacher's name was no small matter. This was a real sign of his authority in the word of God for those whom he was speaking to.

This verse also tells us he was very zealous for God. He was passionate about protecting the name of God. But how zealous was he? How did this zealous mindset affect his view of Christ? Let's just say he was not keen on Jesus at first. While it's not explicitly stated, many believe the Saul mentioned in **Acts 7:58** (during the stoning of Stephen) was the man to become Paul. This is theorized because it makes little sense for Luke to have written such a minuscule detail if he was not introducing his friend. Especially because the next section is well understood to be about Paul.

**Read Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-2**

Here we get a better picture of Saul's view of Jesus. He's depicted as avenging the church and breathing threats of murder against the disciples of the Lord. For Saul, he saw Jesus as heresy. He believed the only right thing to do was to imprison and kill off all who invoked the name of Jesus. This was a mindset he was raised with. This was a mindset that in all honesty, he never thought would be broken. From the outside, he looks as hopeless as Broly did. No, he wasn't abused, but as a young man, he was taught to hate anyone associated with Jesus. Yet we see a change

**Read Acts 9:3-20**

Saul had a massive change. It took him encountering Jesus to see things in a very different way. The change was so dramatic that those who used to be with him sought to kill him (**Acts 9:23**). He went on to bring the gospel to the gentile world. He went on to write the majority of our new testament. Paul became one of the "strongest warriors" in the Kingdom of God.

## MOD

The reality is this, everyone can change. We simply need to encounter Jesus. Now, not all of us have a blinding experience like Saul did, but everyone can have the opportunity to encounter Jesus. For Broly, his first encounter with what a different life could be was with Cheelai and Lemo. For a moment, they were a catalyst for a change. In the same way, there are people around us who can encounter Jesus through us. If we are willing to humble ourselves and live our walk with God in front of others, something awesome can happen.

**Matthew 5:16** "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Here, Jesus is encouraging us as believers to live out our lives in front of others so God gets the glory. But how does He receive such glory? If we do so in a humble manner (chapter six warns about living your life on display for attention sake), then we are not drawing men to ourselves, but the Holy Spirit is using us to draw them to the Father. He is drawing them to repentance and everlasting life through our example.

It doesn't matter who they are, where they are from, or what they've done. God can save and heal them. They can stop fighting. Like Saul, like Broly, they can start over again, and if we are willing, God can use us to reach them in the process.

## PRAY

Take up prayer requests from the group. Then offer the opportunity for anyone in the group who needs to make a change in their own lives to do so. Walk them through how to repent, and as you pray, allow them the opportunity to pray to God for the forgiveness of their sins.

## THE NEXT LEVEL

**Mark 10:24-27** "And the disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how difficult it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.' And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.'"

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