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Week 16: Spring Mission Feeding
Randy Robison and Tammy Trent
Joshua Broome

In the studio

RANDY: Welcome to *LIFE Today*. I'm Randy Robison. Tammy is with me.

TAMMY: Hello!

RANDY: Interesting guest today.

TAMMY: I'm excited about our guest today. I can't wait to hear what he has to say because he has an unbelievable story. Randy, I have met probably on one hand, I could say people where they have told me how God has transformed their lives. You know like my life, I've had things in my life that God has worked on, he's changed. Other people, they're like look what God has done. I'm like that's incredible.

But honestly, on one hand, I've met people or had friends in my life where God has totally transformed their life to the point where I was like, there is no way—there is no way they're going to straighten out their life. But when somebody does that, and their life is totally transformed, to me as a believer, it gives me hope to know that we are never too far gone from God's reach to reach us deep within and say, I'm going to change your life and I'm going to use it for something spectacular in this world.

RANDY: You said you didn't want to do the intro but you're pretty fired up about this. And I'm excited. [Laughing] Our guest is Joshua Broome and he has a book called *7 Lies That Will Ruin Your Life*. What, largely, you're referring to is the fact that Joshua was previously in the adult film industry, to put a nice name on it, and God brought him out and transformed him. So I want

you to hear his story.

Joshua, great to have you back on *Life Today*.

JOSHUA: So glad to be here.

RANDY: Wonderful! For those who do not know your story, before we get into some of the details of the book, give us that background. Because it is one of those that you just go wow!

JOSHUA: So I grew up in a small town in South Carolina. And I didn't have a father in my home. That's unfortunately, a normative thing in this culture. But what was unique about me growing up was the father that I didn't have in my home, he was in this small town close enough where I would see him on a regular basis.

So just thinking of a young man wanting a dad, needing a dad, and him being in arm's reach. The thing that caused you confusion and feelings of inadequacy, there is a tangible reminder. And then, as I got older it changed from confusion to frustration, feelings of I'm not good enough. And like most people that have a high personality, which I believe most people do, I believed, well, if I do enough I can feel like I'm enough.

I sought out acting and modeling and had some success there. School, sports, whatever I could do, honestly, fishing for the feeling of "Good job, son" would feel coming from my dad. I dropped out of college the second semester of my sophomore year thinking if I put myself in close enough proximity to the industry I wanted to be in, then it would be advantageous for me. I had a conversation with an agent there that was going to represent me.

So I went there, I signed with her. I started modeling. Wanted to act more than I wanted to model. Modeling came easier than acting. But that's just kind of where I was. After doing that for a few years, living far beyond my means, had to get an additional job to pay the bills while I was chasing the dream.

And in that place, three girls walked in and asked me a question that changed my life. And they asked me, "Do you want to be an actor?"

And I thought yes! This is an opportunity to do the thing I wanted to do. Maybe they knew someone or they were working on a project or they were friends of a casting agent or something.

But they were talking about the adult film industry. They introduced me to their agent. Essentially, they were head hunters, where they would find people who were willing to meet with this agent. The agent asked me three very interesting questions. He asked me, how did I grow up? What was I doing in L.A.? And what do I hope to accomplish?

Thinking about this in retrospect, a lot of ammunition for someone who wanted to manipulate.

RANDY: No kidding. Sort of a honey trap and then the manipulation.

JOSHUA: So I share, I grew up in a broken home. I'm in L.A. trying to do modeling and acting. And then interestingly enough, I said what I wanted to accomplish was become famous. Really thinking about "famous," it doesn't have a lid. So if it is not measurable you can't achieve it. Because how famous do you need to become until you feel like you've made it? Or the person that says I want to be rich, how much money equates to being rich? Take whatever it is your heart is longing for that you feel like if I had it, I'll feel like I made it. Really, when someone says I want to be famous they're saying I want to be seen. I want to be heard. I want to be loved.

So that's what I was searching for and I accepted this counterfeit version of what I wanted to accomplish. And I said yes to doing one film. And very quickly, my mainstream agent found out what I did. "I'm sorry we can't represent you anymore."

My mom finds out, living in a small town. Word travels pretty fast. She is calling me and we're having a really uncomfortable conversation. Her saying hey, did you do this thing? And me knowing that I did. I said yes, I did it and felt shame and felt, well, I let her down.

So at that point in my life, I started pushing people away that I'd either disappointed or thought well, I've disqualified myself from adding any value to your life. And so I kept everyone at arm's reach. I believed a lie. The ode to the book is if you believe a lie to be true, it is true to you, and you create a worldview through that lie.

And if you're looking at life through a broken lens, you're going to lead a broken life. I believed, okay, this is who I am so this is what I have to do because I can't do anything else. It is just untrue. I could have picked myself up and dusted myself off and done something else, even if it wasn't acting and modeling. I was 22, I could have done other things with my life. But I believed, because I saw myself as my mistake, I was a mistake, so I had to continue making mistakes. So I stayed in that industry.

And again, the same mentality, well, if I make enough money, if I become famous enough, it will mitigate the way that I feel internally. I think, in a real way, like Romans 2:4 talks about God's love, his kindness, and his patience, it leads us into repentance, I obtained everything that I thought I wanted. I became famous. I made all this money. I did all the things, and when I experienced everything I thought would fix my heart and it didn't work, it led me to make a plan to take my life. Because well, if this is not going to work, and now I've ruined my life, and now my mistakes are tangibly found, who is going to want me?

I literally wrote on a piece of paper, I'm never going to be a father, because that was my number one thing. I wanted to become the thing I didn't have. And I wanted to be a husband because I saw my mom mistreated. And I knew what it meant, like being a husband or being a father are very different than signing a piece of paper and getting married or getting a girl pregnant. Significantly different.

And then lastly, I wrote, I'll never contribute to people in a way that leads to positive change. I wanted to pour into people and allow them to believe they could do more than they believed they could.

So those are the three things I was passionate about. I was like, well, I've disqualified myself

from that, so what's the point? And I walked into a bank and I wanted someone to affirm the way that I thought about myself. So on the check, on the memo of the check, it said what I was being compensated for, which obviously was sex, and I was ashamed of that. So normally, I would do ATM drop box, mobile deposit, anything to not look someone in the eye and say, here, deposit this into my account. But on this day, I wanted someone to agree with me so it would justify what I wanted to do.

I walked into the bank, and at this point in my life, I hadn't heard my name in over a year. I'd isolated myself from anyone and everything that truly knew who Joshua Broome was. And the only thing that was left was this pseudonym, this fictitious reality I had created. I slid the check across the counter and I waited on her to shake her head or grimace or do something. And instead, she looked into my eyes and said, "Joshua, are you okay? Joshua, how can I help you?"

And I believe in the prompting of the Holy Spirit. And because she did that, instead of me taking my life, I ran for my life. I called my mom and had this conversation with her. She was like, "I love you. I'm not mad at you. I just want you to be okay. I want you to come home."

So I moved back to Raleigh, North Carolina. So I looked and I had a few credentials where I could coach and personal train so I was like okay, let me find any gym that will hire me in proximity to where my mom lives. And I went there and did that.

The same mentality. Well, I'm going to get all these credentials, I'm going to become the best trainer. I'm going to be successful. Again, I'm going to—because what was true, and this is true of so many people that are struggling with their mental health, I believed that I needed to pretend to be okay when I wasn't. So outside looking in, now I'm not doing the bad things. I've removed myself from this environment. And the way I say it is I tried to put enough good dirt on my bad dirt so I didn't feel dirty.

There are so many people that are like, if I do enough good things, I won't feel bad about the bad things I've done. So I feel like I'm a good person. But the problem was I had a heart issue that only Jesus could fix. But I didn't know that yet.

And so I did that for two years. I'm trying to figure out life and then I meet this girl and we go on a walk. I felt convicted about telling her about my past. I told her, "Hey, here's a five-minute monologue of how bad of a person I am."

She's like, "Well, are you doing those things now?"

I said, "No."

She said, "Well, a person is not defined by the worst thing they've ever done. And a person is not defined by the greatest thing they will ever do. There is a creator that exists outside of all those things that created me and you, and everything else. Do you know him?"

I was like, "Maybe. I don't know. I want to know you."

That's what was true. I was so used to not believing I had any worth so I call it a first-date mask. I didn't know who I was so I pretended to be whoever I thought you wanted me to be so you would like me. I just need your affirmation because I didn't think I had anything to offer. And she challenged that. Because I thought, I was not valuable because of my situation with my father and now I was a bad person because I had done bad things. I had this scarlet letter that couldn't be removed because my sins were tangibly found. So I'm like, this is how bad I am. She is like, "No. There is something greater that exists outside of you that created you, and he has the final say. Do you know him?"

She shared with me she had been following Jesus since she was in the seventh grade and her family all followed Jesus. It was her relationship with Jesus that she lived her life. And she used language very different. Like she was like following Jesus' relationship. And I was like, this is different. And it cultivated this curiosity in me.

And so that happened on Easter nine years ago. The following week she invited me to church. In church, I heard this message out of Second Samuel chapter nine where Mephibosheth thought

that he was going to be killed because historically that's what was done. But David was different and he had made this promise to Jonathan in First Samuel that he was going to continue to show him the lovingkindness from God. He asked, "Is there anyone left out of the family of Saul?" And they brought Mephibosheth in and they restored his land. In Second Samuel nine, verse eight he even refers to himself as a dead dog. He's like who am I to receive this?

That's where I was. That was the intersection of me hearing the gospel. I knew what I was hearing to be true yet I found myself so undeserving. And then I heard him read Hebrews 12:2. He said that it was with joy set before him that Jesus endured the cross. And where there is joy there is love. And not only yes, Jesus was perfect in every way so he was obedient to the cross but there was a God that loved me. And then what's so amazing about that is I surrendered my life to Jesus that day.

And then about three days later I walk into a church and I'm like hey, I've got a story I want to share with you. But I feel like it is not for me, it is for others. But I feel like I need to know how to understand the Bible to tell it. There is this young man, who had just graduated from DTS and he was working in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was a pastor there and he sat with me and he taught me how to read the Bible, and he taught me how to study the Bible. And eventually, I went to Liberty and studied Christian ministries and biblical theology. And God continues to do God things. That girl that I went on that walk with, her name is Hope and she is my wife.

RANDY: So you became a husband.

JOSHUA: Yeah! I became a husband. Ephesians 3:20 is real. God certainly gave me exceedingly, abundantly, more than I could ever hope or imagine.

TAMMY: Did those three things on that list, did they come to pass?

JOSHUA: Yeah, we have four boys. So we've been married for eight years. We have four boys, a six-week-old at home. We have Cannon, Lincoln, Judah, and Abel.

RANDY: What a great story of the lies that you believed and when you turned it over to God, he actually fulfills the real desires of your heart with things that satisfy. I'm curious as you are a father now, what have you learned about the heart of God, the good Father you maybe missed, you know?

JOSHUA: Yeah, I think it is so important, I think for me to become a man of God or for me to become a godly father or for me to become a godly husband I had to first become a son. There is this beautiful picture regarding sonship that Galatians 4:4-7 talks about. Just the way that Roman culture allows you to understand sonship. It is not something that—because we're adopted. There are two things that are true. Yes, we were all created in the image of God but we are not all children of God. That comes through adoption and through the blood of Christ. And through understanding who you are, like if your identity is birthed in you are a son of the king. You're chosen, you're set apart. These are things that are true about you. You have this inheritance immediately.

So eternity starts then and there. So it is not about when you die, it is then and there you inherit all the things of the kingdom. So now you're a new creation, a new person. Second Corinthians 5:17 talks about how you're a new creation. The old is gone. But then it continues. He is like you are a new creation and now you are a carrier of this message of reconciliation. You've got work to do. You're saved from something and for something for his glory.

So for me, to answer your question, for me, understanding how to be a son, I understood everything else.

RANDY: I love it.

TAMMY: I love it too. One thing that stands out also for me, Joshua, is that you went to look for help. You didn't just try to, like, here I am, I don't know what to do and I guess this is it. You actively went and said, I need help. Teach me how to read the Bible. Teach me how to navigate through the life I've lived and the life I know God has for me. I love that. You did that and you sought that out.

And today, there are people all around the world that are seeking out help. They're holding on for hope and we get to be a part of that today, you and me—all of us. Take a minute. I want to show you something really special.

On the mission field

Open Captions

>> "If you want your prayers answered, be an answer to someone else's prayer."—James Robison

TAMMY: When I'm on a mission trip I can't help but feel the pain a mother has when she sees her child suffering because there's no food for her.

Open Captions

>> As a mother, I feel like a failure because two of my children died. It starts with a lack of food. Then malnutrition leads to other terrible diseases. It's really hard for me to think back to the times when they passed away.

TAMMY: This is Armita. Can you begin to imagine the crushing impact of losing your children because you couldn't feed them? It was devastating for Armita but she knows she must carry on for her other children. How does she manage it? Through fervent prayer.

Open Captions

>> Jesus is the only hope we have. When we go to sleep, we pray, Jesus, thank you for sustaining us for another day.

TAMMY: I would love to tell you Armita's story of losing her children because the lack of food is rare—but it is not! These women by show of hands shared how many children they each had lost. They well know the same heartache as Armita. Mandelena lost five children. Yngo, two children. Margarita, one child. Julia, three children.

One thing all these precious mothers have in common through prayer is they put their hope for tomorrow in the hands of Jesus. My heart is always moved by all the precious mothers I meet here in Africa. And I'm especially moved because I know we share the same hope in Jesus and the way he provides. Today, you and I have the opportunity to be his hands and a direct answer to these mothers' prayers. God is truly on the move in Africa and I invite you to be a part of it.

Open Captions

>> "If you want your prayers answered, be an answer to someone else's prayer."—James Robison

End of video

In the studio

TAMMY: It's—it's very fresh for me because I just got back from Ethiopia. Their loss is devastating. Their suffering is enormous. The heartache is almost unbearable.

Many mothers feel like failures when they lose a child. And sitting here with you today, I don't want to fail them. I don't want to fail these mothers. When I'm sitting with them, when I'm talking with them, when I'm walking with them, when I'm praying with them, I just keep thinking I don't want to fail you. How can I help?

That's why I love doing what I am privileged to be able to do. What an honor for me to speak for them in their greatest time of need and to share that need with you today. Together, we can make a difference in and impact the lives of these families, especially these mamas who don't want to lose another child.

We are feeding right now 350,000 children every day. And we want to do more, we need to do more. As you saw in that piece, we have to do more. It is not that hard to come together and make a difference starting right now by doing something today. \$30 will feed three children for three months, \$50 will feed five, \$100 will feed ten, and \$1,000 will feed 100 children for the

next three months. This is something we need to do, we have to do, we must do. We must do this as God's children. He's asking us to stand in the gap today right now for these families.

Would you go online or would you make a call? Would you give the very best gift you can today? Let's not fail these mothers.

Begin video clip

ANNOUNCER: Right now across the continent of Africa, children are suffering facing severe malnutrition and even death. Severe drought and famine, including in crisis areas like Ethiopia, means we must replenish food supplies immediately to keep feeding 350,000 children and help reach more people in desperate need.

Through *LIFE's* Mission Feeding outreach your gift of love can be an answer to prayer for a hurting and hungry child in their time of need. Call now with your lifesaving gift of \$30, \$50, or \$100 to help feed and care for three, five, or ten children for three full months. With your gift of any amount, we'll send *The Blessing of Taking Communion*. In this book, discover how the sacred ordinance of communion helps to feed your soul and reminds you of the transformative power of receiving the Lord's Supper.

With your gift of \$100 or more, you may request the LIFE Legacy Journal. This beautiful journal and pen will help you write your personal story and share the experiences that made you who you are. One day, the generations that follow will be able to look back and learn from the legacy you've left behind.

Finally, with your gift of \$1,000 or more to help feed and care for 100 children, be sure to request our inspiring bronze sculpture, "A Cup of Water." Please call, write, or make your gift online today.

End of video

In the studio

RANDY: We're talking about lies today. Lies that can ruin your life. But here is a lie that will definitely create great harm for people. That lie is that your action today doesn't make a difference. Your prayer doesn't make a difference. Let me tell you it does. I've seen this for years. We go into these places that seem completely hopeless and we make a difference. We save lives and we share it with the love of Christ. So whatever you can do, I just pray—let me pray with you. Lord, for those watching right now, I pray you'll just tell them what they should do. If they should pray, if they should give, if they should do something else in their community or around—just lead them, Lord, and give them the courage and the power to obey where you lead them.

If God is leading you to participate in Mission Feeding, that gift of \$30, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000, whatever it is, it is the obedience. Because the truth is when we remember the poor, when we follow the example of Jesus, we demonstrate God to the world. So I pray you'll do that.

TAMMY: Amen! Amen! So good. For any gift that you're able to give to the ministry today, we want to come alongside you and we want to make sure to send this book to you by Joshua Broome, *7 Lies That Will Ruin Your Life*. Josh, can you just give me a little bit of a takeaway?

JOSHUA: Yeah. The big picture is it is looking at like Romans 12:2. You're either being conformed by the world or you're being transformed by the renewing of your mind. That's important, the latter part of the verse, "so you that you can know what is God's good, pleasing and perfect will." So there is a truth—there is a line in the sand that we can know. The book is about seven big lies of culture around intimacy, success, and many things that we believe will satisfy our souls. And only Jesus will do that. That's what the book is about.

TAMMY: Amen. Look what happens when we surrender our lives to God, a life well lived right now, Joshua. Thanks for being here. We appreciate you so much. Thanks for watching. We'll see you next time on *Life Today*.