

2023



GOD OF A BREAKTHROUGH: FAMILY

GOD OF A BREAKTHROUGH SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

This is a new sermon series entitled, "The God of a Breakthrough," beginning with the area of *family*. Some of us have abandoned some people that are supposed to look out for us. And some of us are the bridges to pray for our families, even when they get on our last nerves.

In Luke, Jesus is determined to get to a man's house by the name of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a man who had a job, house, and wealth. Like many of us, on paper, it appeared he had everything a person could need or want, but his position brought many pressures to his life that pushed him to a breaking point. Zacchaeus sought out the presence of the Lord, but because of his height, he had to climb a sycamore-fig tree to get to Jesus.

THIS WILL BE YOUR RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

Proverbs 17:17 CEB - "Friends love all the time, and kinsfolk are born for times of trouble."

THE GOOD NEWS

Friends come and go, but family sticks with you during the hardest of times.

- You have to make a declaration that the enemy cannot have your family. You have to protect and cover them.
- Examples in the Bible of covering family:
 - When David was chased into the cave of Adullam and the first ones to meet him there were his brothers.
 - When the woman placed her dying son on the prophet's bed.
 - When Jarius' daughter went from sick to dying.

ASK GOD TO COVER YOUR HOUSE. YOUR HOUSE IS WHERE YOUR FAMILY IS.

Luke 19:1-3 NIV - Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. [2] A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. [3] He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. [4] So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." [6] So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

- The Lord will look past all of your worldly possessions and see where you are spiritually.
- You are the bridge that serves as the covering for your house.

FACTS ABOUT ZACCHAEUS

Name: Zacchaeus means "pure" or "innocent"

Lives: In a house in Jericho

Occupation: Chief tax collector

Economic status: Wealthy

Physically: Short

Present state: Desperate

*Luke 19: 3 - 4 NIV -He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because **he was short** he could not see over the crowd. [4] So he **ran ahead** and **climbed a sycamore-fig tree** to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

- Zaccheus should be fine based on this checklist:
 - Job
 - House
 - Wealth
- On the outside, you have everything. But, on the inside, everything is not together.

What has driven you to a breaking point? How are you managing your current state?

ZACCHAEUS IS NOT FINE BUT AT A BREAKING POINT.

*Luke 19:5 NIV - When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, **come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.**"*

- Jesus sought Zacchaeus out because of what was going on with him.

What have you been going through that God needs to address immediately?

JESUS ONLY COMES WHERE THERE IS A NEED.

ROPE 1: PULLED ON BY YOUR HOUSE

- Everyone in your house is relying on you.

ROPE 2: PULLED ON BY YOUR JOB

Luke 19:2 NIV - A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

- The people you manage want to make their problems your problem.

ROPE 3: PULLED ON TO MEET OTHERS' NEEDS

Luke 19:2 NIV - A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

- Others think you have money, so they expect you to do everything for them.

ROPE 4: PULLED ON BY THE OPINIONS OF PEOPLE

Luke 19:7 NIV - All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

- Don't allow the chatter, thoughts, and words of others to shut you down.

ROPE 5: PULLED ON BY YOURSELF

- You are not living to your full potential.

ROPE 6: EMOTIONS PULLED ON BECAUSE YOU HATE YOUR JOB

- You don't have a choice but to go to work. Others are depending on you.

ROPE 7: GUILT FEELING THAT YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

- Do not allow guilt to stress you out. Find your freedom in God.

ROPE 8: FEAR OF QUITTING

- Don't quit just because you feel that you have been doing "this" for a long time.

ROPE 9: TAKING IT OUT ON THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU

- You respond to outside pressures in your house and punish those closest to you.

ROPE 10: ????????????

- Be honest with yourself and take inventory of where you are.

What is pulling on you?

Luke 19:5 NIV - When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

THE GOD OF A BREAKTHROUGH IS ABOUT TO COME THROUGH.

STEPS TO A BREAKTHROUGH

1. GET TO GOD

Luke 19:4 NIV - So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

- Put in the effort to get to God.

What efforts are you making to get to God? What is blocking you from getting there?

2. KNOW HE SEES YOU

Luke 19:5 NIV - When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

- God sees you in the midst of your situation and is attentive to what you are going through.

At this moment, what do you need God to deliver you out of?

3. MAKE SOME PERSONAL CHANGES

Luke 19:8 NIV - But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

- You have to make some personal changes and be willing to walk away from some people, places, and things.

What changes are you willing to make to ensure your future is better than your past?

4. WELCOME JESUS INTO YOUR PRIVATE SPACE

Luke 19:9 NIV - Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- Based on your birthright you have benefits. Don't live beneath your birthright.
 - These are your benefits: *I come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* (See John 10:10b KJV)

Have you invited Jesus into your personal space? If not, why?

DRAW NEAR TO GOD HE DRAWS NEAR TO YOU.

Isaiah 45:2 NIV- I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will ***break down*** gates of bronze and ***cut through*** bars of iron.

- You are about to have complete access. God is creating a breakthrough for you. How will you honor God for the breakthrough?

HE IS THE GOD OF A BREAKTHROUGH.

QUESTION

What area(s) in your life do you need a breakthrough?

DECLARATION

I trust the God of a breakthrough to come through for me.

PRAYER

Lord, I thank You for loving me in the midst of life's pressures. You saw me and met me where I was. You have delivered me from the stressors of life and given me the breakthrough that I needed. You have reassured me that I can find refuge and deliverance in You. I trust You and I have decided that I will not live a life of pressure and stress. I will continue to trust and lean on You for my freedom, in Jesus' name, Amen!