



God-Made: to Bring the Kingdom

You've been created in God's image to bring God's Kingdom from Heaven to Earth. You've been given Jesus' authority to change the world, and you've been sent to a specific people and place to see this happen. So, it's important for us to live as our God-made (not genetically modified) selves. This series is focused on helping us, the church, understand our calling as ministers, and therefore, our role in tending to the sheep (people) we are called to shepherd, right where we are in our spheres of influence (workplace, school, etc.).

LOOKING BACK:

FAMILY TIME (25 min)

- Vision Statement: Explain the vision of your lifegroup.
- Intro Question: Name a time that you did a good deed for someone you did not know. What was that experience like? How did it make you feel? How did it make them feel?
- Praise Reports and Prayer Requests (Allow space for your group members to update on previous week prayer requests as needed).

LOOKING UP:

WORSHIP (20 min)

- Spend time in worship together.
- Some possible song suggestions:

No Other Name - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wku90ph07JE> (7 min)

This Is A Move - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JrP63AbapVo> (7 min)

Nothing Else - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvaL7Q8Nx8A> (5 min)

BIBLE STUDY (20 min)

Luke 19:1-26

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man^[a] came to seek and save those who are lost.”

¹¹ The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God would begin right away. ¹² He said, “A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. ¹³ Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver,^[b] saying, ‘Invest this for me while I am gone.’ ¹⁴ But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, ‘We do not want him to be our king.’

15 “After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. 16 The first servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!’

17 “‘Well done!’ the king exclaimed. ‘You are a good servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.’

18 “The next servant reported, ‘Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.’

19 “‘Well done!’ the king said. ‘You will be governor over five cities.’

20 “But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, ‘Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. 21 I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn’t yours and harvesting crops you didn’t plant.’

22 “‘You wicked servant!’ the king roared. ‘Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I’m a hard man who takes what isn’t mine and harvests crops I didn’t plant, 23 why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

24 “Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.’

25 “‘But, master,’ they said, ‘he already has ten pounds!’

26 “‘Yes,’ the king replied, ‘and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’

DBS questions:

- 1) What strikes you/stands out to you from this passage?
- 2) What do you learn about Jesus?
- 3) What do you learn about people?
- 4) What is God speaking to you through this passage?

- 5) How would your life change if you put what God is speaking to you into practice this week?

LOOKING FORWARD (20-30 minutes)

Pastor John mentioned four factors we need to walk out in order to step into the fullness of God's identity and calling for us: Humility, Purity, Financial Simplicity, and Resilience. These are core character traits for being God's trustworthy people in whom God wants to entrust great authority.

Which of these factors specifically applies to where you are currently?

Get into pairs and share openly with one another about your current situation regarding one or more of these factors, and pray for one another. Pray for God's grace to cover one another and stir in us a desire to see breakthroughs where we need in regards to these character pieces.

If your people need accountability for walking out these traits, encourage them to begin with a buddy or a prayer partner today!

KIDS' LESSON SUGGESTION:

Share the story of Zaccheus with your children in Scripture, and have them watch this short video of the popular Zacchaeus song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mV8wFANocHY>

Next, have them reflect on these questions:

Who was Zacchaeus? (short, tax collector, greedy, not well-liked)

What happened to him after he met Jesus? (had dinner together, he had a change of heart)

What did Zacchaeus do after he had a change of heart? (gave half of his money to the poor and gave others FOUR times as much money as he cheated them out of!)

******Feel free to have your children draw a picture of the scene of Jesus approaching Zacchaeus in a tree while reflecting on these questions if you think this is helpful for their learning experience.