

Group Leader Guide “Courageous Action” - Storyline February 28, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

Our lives will never really change for the better unless we take our compelling vision and relentless conviction and put them into ACTION! Lead pastor **Jim Burgen** shows us how to put our money where our mouth is in order to take hold of the abundant life that Jesus has to offer.

// Biblical Context: Zaccheus

Jericho: Zaccheus lived in the ancient city of Jericho. This is the same city that God destroyed in **Joshua 6**. However, that happened some 1500 years before Jesus' time. People had resettled the city, and it was a very prosperous city at the time of this story, inhabited by many wealthy people. King Herod the Great even built three palaces at Jericho. Jericho was a border city that would have had a customs station, which would have allowed the tax collectors to collect even more tax from foreigners, trade, etc.

Chief Tax Collector: A chief tax collector would have been in charge of all of the tax collectors and the taxes they brought in in the city, profiting from each one of them. Technically, he could have gotten wealthy without cheating anyone directly. However, he seems to admit in verse 8 that he did, in fact, cheat people. Cheating people would mean that he charged them more tax than was owed to Rome so that he could pocket the extra money for himself.



A Sycamore Tree in Jericho

Repaying Fourfold: The cultural expectation for someone when they cheated someone else was to repay twice as much. Zaccheus, therefore, went above and beyond to repay the people whom he had cheated. (Also, Zaccheus saying, “IF I have cheated anybody” was a cultural way of admitting guilt while saving face.)

Zaccheus' Height: The average height of men in Israel during the first century AD was around 5'5". This means that in order for Zaccheus to be considered short, he was probably below 5' tall.



// In Preparation

This week, spend some time in prayer for each of the members of your group. Pray that as the group progresses, they will feel more and more safe and begin to open up and lean on the others in the group. Pray that they can find true community within the group. Finally, pray that they will grow in their faith as a result of engaging with others on a similar faith journey.

// References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. (2014). *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press.



Group Discussion Questions

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// Bible References

Galatians 5:1, 7-8; John 10:10; Matthew 4:17; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 19:5-10

// Message Screenshots

- “Everybody has a plan until they get punched in the mouth.” - Mike Tyson
- It’s how you react to that adversity that defines you, not the adversity itself.
- Abundant: full, over and above, more than enough, exceeding a certain/assumed measure, much, great, distinguished, excellent, better, whole, complete, significant.
- Repent: Rethink how you think about everything and ADJUST and REORGANIZE your entire life around what Jesus says is now true and possible for you.
- “I’m open to change as long as it doesn’t mean ‘this’.”
- “I need something to change even if it means ‘this’.”
- Your COMPELLING VISION combined with your RELENTLESS COMMITMENT must lead to you take COURAGEOUS ACTION.
- Soldiers fight AGAINST bad stuff. Warriors fight FOR good stuff.
- Jesus went to a cross and rose up out of that grave so that He could live in your heart and EMPOWER you to GO TO WAR and DEFEAT Satan.
- God’s Holy Spirit is here and He is telling you exactly what you need to do to get back or take back what God means for you to have.
- Nobody can keep from you what God wants you to have.
- “Fight and you may die. Run, and you’ll live...at least a while. And dying in your beds, many years from now, would you be willing to trade all the days, from this day to that, for one chance - just one chance - to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they’ll never take our freedom!” -William Wallace (Braveheart)
- Si Vis Pacem, Para Bellum: If you want peace, prepare for war.
- Molon Labe: Come and Take Them.

// Community Question

1. What did you do last week, and/or plan to do going forward, to dig into Scripture more?
2. What are some of your favorite quotes (movie quotes, celebrity quotes, historical quotes, etc.)?



// Discussion Questions

ABUNDANT LIFE

1. Read **John 10:10-15**. Then, read **Psalms 23**. What parallels do you recognize between these two passages?
2. Read **Jeremiah 33:6-9**. It is often said that the overall purpose of our lives is to bring glory to God. How does God providing us an abundant life glorify Him?
3. Read **James 1:12**. Last week we looked at this verse in terms of temptation. Now let's look at it in terms of "getting punched in the mouth" in life. How do the trials we go through in life help us to have a more abundant life?
4. Think of someone you know or know of that you consider having an abundant life. What trials or obstacles did they have to overcome in their lives?
5. What trials or obstacles are you currently facing in your own life?

REPENT

6. Read **James 1:22-24**. What parts of your life fit into the description here? In other words, what are the areas of your life that you have trouble applying what the Bible says?
7. How does what you are doing differ from what the Bible says?
8. Read the next verse, **James 1:25**. What might be the benefit to your life if you apply what the Bible says to this area of your life?

// Challenge Question

Jim said that in order to have a compelling story, we must take action and reorganize our lives around what Jesus says is true. **What is one action step you can take this week in the area of your life not in line with the Bible that will help to bring it in line with Jesus' truth?** How can this group support you in accomplishing that?