

Protecting your Breakthrough - Pt. 2 Personal or group-based guide for additional study

Based on 2 Kings 13:14-19

OPENING PRAYER

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to receive what He wants to teach through this discussion.

ICEBREAKER (5-10 minutes)

Share a time when you experienced a "breakthrough" in some area of your life (relationship, career, health, spiritual growth). What did it feel like? How long did it last?

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

The sermon examines how King Joash visited the dying prophet Elisha and was instructed to shoot an arrow and strike the ground. Through this encounter, we learn that protecting our breakthrough requires:

- Recognizing God as our source of peace, not ourselves
- Declaring war on what threatens our breakthrough
- Complete obedience and submission to God's direction
- Fighting through prayer, obedience, and praise

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. God is the Source of Peace

We often mistake times of peace as something we produced rather than something God provided.

2. God Still Holds Us Despite Our Flaws

Even when our intentions aren't pure or we're rebellious, God keeps His hand on us because of His promises.

3. God Has an Offensive Plan, Not Just a Recovery Plan

Sometimes God wants us to declare war on what's attacking us rather than just waiting for rescue.

4. "Good Enough" Can Be the Enemy of Complete Victory

When we decide on our own that we've done enough, we may miss the complete victory God intended.

5. We Fight Through Prayer, Obedience, and Praise

These are our spiritual weapons for protecting breakthrough.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: Recognizing the Source (15 minutes)

- 1. The sermon states, "We don't produce peace, God produces peace." In what areas of your life have you taken credit for peace or success that really came from God?
- 2. King Joash was more concerned about losing access to God's help than losing relationship with God Himself. How can we tell the difference in our own lives between seeking God versus just seeking what God can do for us?
- 3. Read James 1:17. Share an example of a "good and perfect gift" in your life that you now recognize came from God, not from your own effort.

Section 2: God's Hand on Imperfect People (15 minutes)

- 4. Despite Joash being a wicked king, Elisha still grabbed his hand and helped him. What does this teach us about God's grace? How should this affect how we view ourselves and others?
- 5. The sermon mentioned that God sometimes answers prayers of people who have already passed away. Has anyone in your family prayed for you before you were born or before they died? How does knowing this impact you?
- 6. When have you experienced God keeping His hand on you even when you didn't deserve it? Share your story.

Section 3: Declaring War on the Enemy (15 minutes)

- 7. Elisha told Joash to shoot "the Lord's arrow of victory" toward the enemy. What does it mean to "declare war" in a spiritual sense? What are we actually fighting against?
- 8. The sermon says God sometimes wants us to start something so He can finish it. What breakthrough in your life might God be calling you to actively pursue rather than passively wait for?
- 9. Joash only struck the ground three times when he should have struck five or six times. Why do you think he stopped? What causes us to stop short of complete obedience?

Section 4: The "Good Enough" Trap (15 minutes)

- 10. The king decided on his own that three strikes was "good enough" without consulting Elisha. In what areas of your life have you decided you've done "enough" without really asking God what He wants?
- 11. Examples from the sermon:
 - "So you did this with your spouse and it ought to be better by now. It's not enough."
 - "You have to forgive him again. It's not enough."
- 12. How does this challenge your thinking about persistence in relationships, prayer, or obedience?
- 13. What's the difference between healthy boundaries and stopping short of what God is calling you to do?

Section 5: How We Fight (15 minutes)

- 13. The three ways we fight are through prayer, obedience, and praise. Which of these comes most naturally to you? Which is most challenging?
- 14. Prayer as warfare: The sermon mentioned Elijah praying for God to blind the enemy army. What situation in your life needs this kind of bold, specific prayer?
- 15. Obedience as warfare: "When we obey, we get out of the way and God can discipline



them." How does practicing obedience protect your breakthrough?

16. Praise as warfare: The sermon gave examples of Paul and Silas, Jehoshaphat's choir, and Joshua at Jericho. Why is praise such a powerful weapon? When is it hardest to praise?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes) Personal Reflection:

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to consider:

- What breakthrough am I currently experiencing or hoping for?
- What threatens that breakthrough?
- What is God calling me to do to protect it?

Action Steps:

Choose at least one action step to implement this week:

- □ PRAYER: Commit to "striking the ground" more than three times. Set aside specific time daily this week to pray persistently for your breakthrough.
- □ OBEDIENCE: Identify one area where you've been partially obedient. What would complete obedience look like? Take one step this week.
- □ PRAISE: Start or end each day this week with intentional praise—even (especially) if you don't feel like it. Journal what happens.
- □ DECLARATION: Write out a declaration of war against whatever has been attacking your marriage, family, health, or spiritual life. Speak it out loud daily.
- □ SUBMISSION: Stop deciding on your own what's "good enough." Ask God specifically: "How many times should I strike? When should I stop?"

ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNER EXERCISE (5 minutes)

Pair up with one other person in the group:

- 1. Share your specific breakthrough and what threatens it
- 2. Share which action step you're committing to
- 3. Exchange contact information
- 4. Commit to checking in with each other mid-week

CLOSING REFLECTION

Read together: "Death, where is your victory? Grave, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

Remember: We don't fight hoping we'll win. We fight knowing we've already won because of Jesus' victory on the cross. We fight with faith, not fear.