

Discussion Guide

12/29/2024

Strike The Ground

Pastor Brandon Barber

Main Idea

Pastor Brandon encourages taking bold steps in various areas of life: tithing, serving, starting a business, seeking counseling, or overcoming addiction. "Strike the ground" symbolizes claiming new territory, leaving behind past struggles, and stepping into the future with renewed faith, vision, and purpose. It's about starting fresh, embracing growth, and trusting that God is guiding you forward.

Anchor Passage

"...but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." John 4:14 (NASB1995)

Read John 4:1-15

A Living Well brings life to three important areas.

Me (Personal Growth): Building something in your life that you can draw from, much like Abraham's faith and legacy. Are you developing a well of personal strength, wisdom, and spiritual nourishment?

My Family: The story of Isaac, who dug up his father's wells (Genesis 26), is used to ask whether you're creating something that your family can draw from—spiritual wisdom, love, values, or traditions that will sustain future generations.

Others: In John 4, Jesus meets a woman at Jacob's well and offers her living water. The question is whether you are building something that others can draw from—offering a better source than what the world provides, just as Jesus offers living water that satisfies.

1. **Strike The Ground**

"Strike the ground" symbolizes claiming new territory. We must have faith to start somewhere, even if we're unsure we'll pick the right path.

Read 2 Kings 13:17

What areas of your life do you need to 'strike the ground' in faith, leaving behind past struggles and stepping into new territory? How can you trust God more fully as you face challenges and embrace the future?

2. **Depth of Digging**

The depth determines the cost. When you start "digging" (taking action), you're making a statement that you're serious about improving your life and not just playing around.

What area of your life do you feel called to 'dig deeper' in, and what obstacles or doubts might be holding you back from continuing? How can you shift your perspective to stay motivated and faithful in that journey?

3. **Seal the Well**

If any part of our life isn't fully centered around Jesus, it's like a broken well—not living in the fullness of what God offers. Without Him, we are like a cistern that cannot hold water, unable to sustain us. We need to seal every part of our life with Christ to live a truly fulfilled and life-giving existence.

Read Jeremiah 2:12-13, Deuteronomy 6:5-9

What kind of 'well' are you building in your life—one that nourishes you, your family, and others? How can you ensure that your legacy is a source of lasting life and strength for those around you?

SUMMARY

In today's message, Pastor Brandon encourages us to take bold steps in our lives, whether it's in our finances, service, personal growth, relationships, or overcoming challenges. He challenges us to "Strike the Ground" in faith, symbolizing our decision to claim new territory, leave behind past struggles, and step confidently into the future with God's guidance. This act of faith is about trusting God's promises, knowing that even when the path is unclear, He will lead us forward.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Reflect on an area of your life where you're hesitating or uncertain. This could be a decision, a new endeavor, or a challenge you're facing. Take a step of faith by making a commitment or taking action, trusting that God is with you.
2. Take time this week to identify an area of your life where God is calling you to "dig deeper." Whether it's personal growth, your relationship with family, or your service to others, commit to taking a concrete step that strengthens your connection to God and His purpose for your life.
3. Examine your life and consider if there are areas where you're not fully trusting God or centering them around Him. Is your work, your relationships, or your personal habits fully surrendered to Jesus? Make a conscious effort to "seal" those areas with Christ—invite Him into every part of your life so that it can be a well that nourishes you, your family, and others around you.

COMING UP

If you have, currently are, or are considering leading a small group in 2025, please register today for our Group Leader Rally and Intensive Training on January 4, 2025, by clicking [HERE](#).

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Who Am I

This game works for a variety of group sizes, 5 to 50 people. Write down a famous Christmas character on a post it note, then stick them on each other's forehead. Once everyone has a post-it note on their forehead they try to guess what character they are by asking other people yes or no questions. The goal is to not be the last person to correctly guess who they are.

Mix it up and do Bible characters as well!

<https://www.shutterfly.com/ideas/christmas-party-games/>