



## Break The Cycle of Debt – Message 1

### Announcements



Starting October 24th, our small groups will begin praying daily for the highly anticipated Spiritual Emphasis Series called *Born For This*. **Email [prayer@churchoftheking.com](mailto:prayer@churchoftheking.com)** to receive daily emails with scripture and a prayer point. Join 1,000 small group members for 1 minute a day until Jan 15<sup>th</sup>!

**Night of Prayer & Worship** // Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 7pm–9pm // All Campuses. This life-giving night includes powerful prayer for personal needs, encouragement from God's Word, supportive group prayer, and inspirational worship. Register for childcare at [ChurchoftheKing.com/register](http://ChurchoftheKing.com/register).

### Warm-up

Think of a skill, hobby or job you enjoy doing. How much time, practice and hard work did it take to develop that skill? Describe the satisfaction and results that came from devoting your energy into this area.

*Break the Cycle: Living Free of Debt, Fear and Lack* is our new three-part sermon message series. Join us as we uncover the patterns that prevent us from walking in freedom in these three areas. Learn how to apply godly principles that break these unhealthy cycles forever.

### Word and Application

Message one of the series focuses on *Breaking the Cycle of Debt*. Did you know that the U.S. National Debt is now close to 20 trillion dollars? Moreover, according to the 2015 American Household Credit Card Debt Study, the average household had \$15,762 of credit card debt, \$27,141 of auto loan debt and \$48,172 of student loan debt. These statistics expose how easily the average American can fall into an unhealthy mindset and cycle of consumer debt.

As believers and as American citizens, we have a responsibility to get out of debt. More important, God wants us to live debt-free. Why do you think this is God's desire for us?

**Read Romans 13:8.** While borrowing from others is not considered a sin, scripture reveals debt as *unwise* living. In Romans 13:8, Paul strongly warns against being in debt to others. What might be some negative consequences to owing someone money or resources?

The good news is God shows us how to break debt's cycle both naturally and supernaturally. Let's first look at the process of breaking the stranglehold of debt through natural means.

## **Breaking Debt Naturally**

**Read Deuteronomy 8:18.** Why do you think it is so important to start with this verse?

1. **Know how much debt you have.**

**Read Proverbs 27:23.** If someone was willing to pay off your debt today, could you tell exactly how much you owe? Share some practical tips on how to take stock of any debt you might have. This week set aside time to write down any debt you have along with interest rates.

2. **Plan.**

**Read Proverbs 21:5.** What does this passage communicate about establishing a plan?

3. **Destroy your credit cards.**

**Read Proverbs 22:7 and Luke 16:11.** How do these scriptures speak to credit card debt? If you are unable to pay off your card each month, stop buying with plastic. Why would taking this step be a challenging but beneficial step?

4. **Do without.**

**Read Luke 14:28.** If you don't have the money, do without. Share a time when you desperately wanted to overspend or purchase something on credit, but made the wise decision to go without. What are some best practices to help others in the group?

5. **Pay cash.**

The fact is you pay less when you pay cash. What are some other benefits to paying with cash?

6. **Pause.**

Before making a major purchase, wait at least 24 hours, work it into next month's budget and/or if you are married be in agreement with your spouse first.

7. **Give.**

**Read Deuteronomy 15:10 and 16:17.** Don't wait until you're out of debt to tithe, give offerings or be generous to others when the Holy Spirit prompts you.

## **Breaking Debt Supernaturally**

When we do what only we can do, God will do what only He can do. Miracles! Below are three biblical examples of supernatural provision. Although the situations differed, God supernaturally intervened in each. How does being reminded of God's miraculous works change how you will pray over your finances?

- God cancelled a widow's debt. (2 Kings 4:1-7)
- God redeemed a borrowed ax head. (2 Kings 6:5-7)
- God miraculously paid Jesus and Peter's tax bill. (Matthew 17)

Which action steps or change of perspective do you need to take this week? Start with one today.

### **Prayer**

Ask God to help us to see finances according to his purpose and plan. Pray for the courage and wisdom to apply biblical steps towards financial freedom. As you commit to doing your part, boldly seek God's supernatural provision over debt. Pray for specific needs of the group.