

GPS



Grounded in Family
Bishop T.D. Jakes

Girl Talk: Free to Be Heard
Mrs. Serita Jakes, Pastor Sarah Jakes Roberts, Pastor Cora Jakes

Your Global Partner Impact

Growing Up Jakes
Jermaine Jakes, Dexter Jakes

2022 Woman, Thou Art Loosed!: Homecoming

Grounded in Family

by **BISHOP T.D. JAKES**



God is relational, and family is paramount in His kingdom. Yet sometimes the world's pull motivates us to sacrifice family for the sake of our own pursuits.

Some focus on forwarding their careers, pursuing advanced degrees, or serving in multiple ministries at church — and all the while, their homes suffer. Skewed priorities cause anxiety because the mind can't rest while home and family aren't secure.

God wants your home to be unshakable — a place where you lay your head down in peace. A grounded home gives you space to retreat to when you need respite from the world's pressures. But what do you do when your home has become the battlefield?

We are blindsided by the battle for a

happy home because we are deceived into thinking it's automatic. Too many people desire a healthy family dynamic but aren't willing to do what's needed to create it.

No matter what condition our families are in, God wants to help us build, even amid brokenness. In nature, birds build nests out of broken branches. Though our homes have broken husbands, wives, and children, God's love heals. Instead of fighting each other, we must focus on loving each other to life.

The first step to healing in our homes is having the difficult conversations. We need real discussions about expectations and responsibilities in our homes to achieve mutual reciprocity. Without it, our relationships lack a balance between giving and receiving, causing us to walk in fake love. It's an unsustainable lifestyle. Resentment

builds over time because love is hard to fake. Homes collapse in life's inevitable storms when they aren't grounded in God's love. This loss of love always leaves a scar.

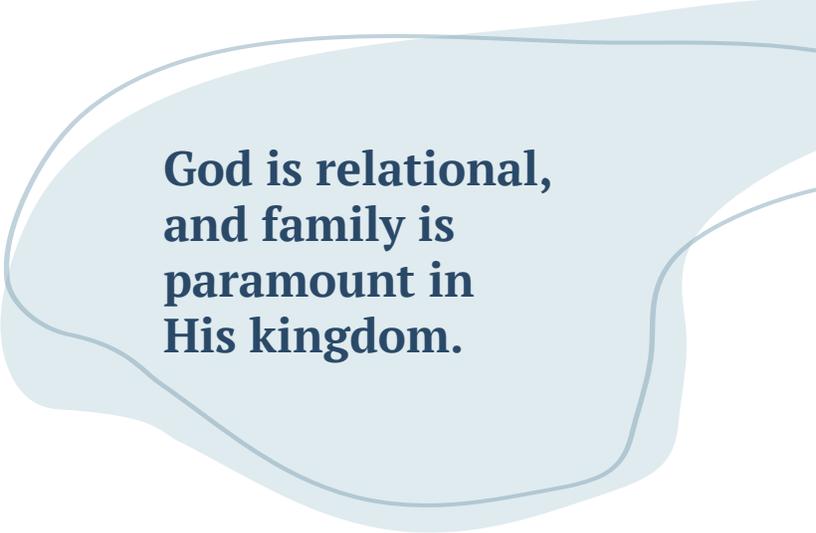
Serita and I can testify of God's faithfulness. He's lifted the Jakes family out of every test and trial. He saved us in seasons of economic scarcity in our home and showed us the power of social support outside of it.

Social support is an often-overlooked ingredient to a happy home. This means assessing our relationships. Every household's promotion is tied to help from others. For example, if I'm going to be the husband and father God called me to be, I need other godly men. Supportive relationships are key to achieving a blessed home life.

Beyond this, the ultimate support for a strong family is a healthy spiritual life — a relationship with Jesus that goes beyond religion. Every family is dysfunctional in some way. We all have secrets, struggles, and issues, but God's wisdom helps us overcome the "crazy" in our homes.

We must take our place in prayer and let the Lord fight our family battles because we can't fix our homes in our

own strength. Instead of striving in the flesh to change our family members, we need to lift them up to the Lord in prayer.



**God is relational,
and family is
paramount in
His kingdom.**

The more we allow the flow of the Spirit to impact our homes, the more it overflows into what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. called "the beloved community." As we celebrate Black History Month, I ponder the power of love and empathy. We are to love our families and our neighbors. We are to be a body of people driven by love. When we ditch the one-of-us mentality and focus on all of us, love prevails the way God intended it to do.

Serita and I are praying for your family to be marked by God's peace. May your household be rooted in love like never before as the Spirit of God ushers your family into a new dimension. Amen. ✝

Growing Up Jakes: Sons' Perspectives

JERMAINE JAKES AND DEXTER JAKES

FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Dexter and Jermaine Jakes, two of Bishop and Mrs. Jakes' three sons, share heartfelt appreciation for their parents' formative lessons.

Dexter attributes the foundation of his spiritual growth to his parents, saying, "Our parents had a wonderful hands-off approach. Even as pastors and leaders, they never forced church on us as kids. They gave us the choice to have our own relationship with God."

Jermaine echoed his brother's sentiment. "When we were growing up, our parents allowed us to express our feelings without judgment. Later in life, it helped me embrace my own identity in God during one of the darkest moments of my life."

In an age when many Christians get distracted in the pursuit of their God-calling, Dexter believes deep passion for your destiny is born out of intentionality. "I saw how hard my parents worked in ministry. I saw how when they were tired, they worked even harder to serve God's people. That made me want to do my best to help them. I was on my way to pursue an MBA at Howard, and that passion led me to change directions to serve alongside my parents in ministry for the last several years.

It's fulfilling to look forward to deepening my walk with God and seeing lives changed through the ministry."

Jermaine sums up the impact Jesus has had on his life with, "One thing I'd share with all the partners of this ministry is to stay humble, teachable, and live a life filled with meaningful moments. And never think you are alone on your journey. You can always depend on guidance from God when your path is not easy. Don't fret. Joy always comes in the morning."



Thankful for Our *GPS* Family



Woman, Thou Art Loosed!: Homecoming

We love spending time with our friends at our live events. Our *GPS* family showed up in force for the final *Woman, Thou Art Loosed!* conference in Atlanta. It was an unforgettable time. We were blessed to serve our partners at such a historic event.



Your Global Partner Impact

Families, communities, and generations are being uplifted and restored through spiritual and practical resources because of the generosity of partners and friends like you.

GOOD 360 PROGRAM: 84,000+ FAMILIES received donated goods, clothes, disaster relief supplies, nonperishable food items, and more through *United MegaCare's* retail and nonprofit partnerships.

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BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK: 1,300+ STUDENTS in need of meals received food packs through a partnership with *Clay Classical Academy*.

FINANCIAL LITERACY: 100+ FAMILIES participated in virtual workshops to help them build a strong financial foundation.



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86,000
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Sincerely, Serita

Girl Talk: Free to Be Heard

Mrs. Jakes: I'm excited to share this moment with my daughters, Sarah and Cora. I want you to hear their hearts about women having the courage to be heard. It's a conversation the Church must embrace to defy ungodly limitations placed on women. God wants women to rise in all areas of life.

Cora: Yes! It's inspiring to see women ascending to the highest positions in all industries. A woman's role is being emphasized and appreciated — from the home to corporate boardrooms. I'm ecstatic about the celebration of Black women and how we are supporting each other.

Sarah: That's so true. Women desire to be more than seen. We want our input and contributions taken seriously. Many times, women are first heard as a whisper until one day we're heard as a shout.

Mrs. Jakes: I'm glad you said that. Our days of suffering in silence must end. We must cry out, knowing our suffering is temporary. It has an expiration date, which is why Jesus declared, "Woman, be loosed from your infirmity."

Cora: There is strength in recognizing our voices carry weight in heaven and on earth. There's power in giving ourselves permission to be heard.

Sarah: And that permission begins at home. Validating our children gives them

confidence to use their voice's power in adulthood. We must teach them how to talk about emotions, so they don't repeat the previous generation's painful cycles.

Mrs. Jakes: It's a blessing to hear the truth poured out of my daughters. We've only touched on a portion of this critical topic, and we want you to know you are free to be you and be heard. Your voice matters to God.

We love you so much. Don't miss the opportunity to connect with other strong believers. Visit GodsLeadingLadies.com today!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Serita Jakes



There is strength in knowing our voices carry weight in heaven.



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