

Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream July 12, 2020

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and small groups to use it. When we hear God's Word read and explained, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or small group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon using the Discussion Guide (see below). **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or small group.

Discussion Guide: Breakthrough – Prayer and Fasting

Discussion Starter 1: Ask your family or small group, "How has fasting helped you this past week?" Ask people to share their fasting plan and how it is going. Your group can learn from each other what is working and what is not working.

Self-Evaluation: Sam mentioned that the first step to personal breakthrough is having the humility to lay all our sin before God. Ask your group to take a moment to reflect on the following questions: "Is there something holding back your relationship with God? Is there somebody you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to talk to? Is there an attitude that needs adjustment? Is there a part of your personality that you need to fix to better display the character of Christ with your life?" Pray over your group about this matter of humility, sin, and surrender.

Discussion Starter 2: Pastor Sam said that "If you are pressing in for breakthrough in your life know the enemy Satan will bring his forces against you and he will fight back to keep you from moving forward." How are you experiencing spiritual attack right now? What aggressive action can you take to resist and fight back against the enemy? Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. Ask the following question: "How does this help us know what to do when we face spiritual attack and strongholds?"

Digging Deeper: In the message, Sam shared that "Brokenness comes before Breakthrough." Keep that in mind as you read 2 Chronicles 20:3-12. Ask your group to identify the "brokenness" in that passage. Discuss how Jehoshaphat had to get to the point where he understood that he and Israel were powerless. Ask your group, "How has God led you to brokenness?" Read 2 Chronicles 20:15-24. Ask, "How did God bring breakthrough to the people of God in this story? Then, ask your group, "How has God brought breakthrough and victory through brokenness in your life?"

Doing the Word: If people in your small group have not started fasting yet, encourage them to develop a plan. Remind them that we have posted resources on social media and on the CF Life App that will help them start and will answer some basic questions about fasting and prayer. Challenge your family or small group to do the following: First, use some of your prayer and fasting times to think about and memorize 2 Corinthians 10:4-5. By memorizing these verses, you will arm yourself for battle. One of the writers of psalms prays, "God, Your word have I hidden in my heart so that I will not sin against You." Second, make a point to pray and ask God to reveal any hidden sin that you may have in your life that is hindering your relationship with God. Ask God for forgiveness and, where possible, seek to make right any wrongs you have done to others.