

Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream July 19, 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: We are entering our third week of prayer and fasting. Ask your family or small group the following question: What personal or discipleship breakthroughs have you experienced already through fasting and prayer? If anyone would like to share their breakthrough with the church, please send the church an email at smallgroups@cumberlandfellowship.com or send a private Facebook message to the church this week.

Digging Deeper: Marriage is a common theme that is used in the Bible to describe God's relationship with His people. Marriage is a covenantal relationship. A covenant is an agreement between two people. God is described as the bridegroom and the people of God are collectively described as the Bride. In the New Testament the imagery is further used to describe Christ and the Church. Pastor Sam mentioned several of the following Bible passages for your group to study further: Exodus 20, 24, 34:28-35; Hosea; Ezekiel 16; John 2:1-11, 3:28-29; Isaiah 24:7-11, 25:6-8; Joel 3:18; Ephesians 5:21-32; Revelation 19:6-10.

Discussion Starter 2: Using the content of this week's message and other resources (Study Bible, Enduring Word Commentary, etc.), talk about Jesus' mini parable about the Old and New Wineskins. Discuss the following questions: What were the old wineskins of the Jewish religion? Is it possible that our traditions or traditional way of thinking can become like old wineskins? Identify three old wineskins that the church has today. The gospel of grace found through faith in Jesus is the ultimate new wineskin. How does the grace-filled gospel of Jesus help us to make sure we are living as new wineskins, individually and as a church?

Self-Evaluation: Pastor Sam mentioned that the New Wine, which is rich in symbolism, includes the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to make us disciples and to launch us to new levels of disciple making. In your own life, how has your level of devotion to Jesus increased in the last year, five years, ten years, etc.? What about your desire to lead other people to become devoted disciples of Jesus? The expansion of the new wineskin represents the expansion of the kingdom of God through the spread of the gospel. Pray that God will give you a discipleship breakthrough that causes you to be a disciple maker for the Lord.

Doing the Word: Do you need to exchange an old wineskin for a new wineskin? Maybe you have considered it the "preacher's" job to lead people to Jesus and help them to grow, but you now know that it is every believer's task to make disciples. How are you making disciples? Who are you meeting with regularly to share the gospel, lead them to faith, and help them to grow? What changes do you need to make in your own life (as an individual, small group or family unit) to establish following Jesus and disciple making as your top priorities? Who can you start meeting within the next couple of weeks to help them grow in Christ? If you need any help, please let us know at andy@cumberlandfellowship.com. We want to equip you with tools and other resources to help you make disciples.