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# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## RIVERS CROSSING CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide

February 18, 2024

Pastor Joey Furjanic (The Block Church)

Don't Break Down Before You Breakthrough

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Question | What's one thing you've changed your mind about lately? What were the circumstances that brought about that change?
2. This week, we heard from Pastor Joey Furjanic of The Block Church in Philadelphia, PA. Reflecting on Pastor Joey's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Here are the key points from Pastor Joey's sermon:

- If you want to breakthrough - Remember the Wonders
- If you want to breakthrough - Embrace Your Limitations (*Find your Superpower*)
- If you want to breakthrough - Fight the Right Fight
- If you want to breakthrough - Stop and Grieve
- If you want to breakthrough - You have to Faith-Through to get to Breakthrough

## DIVING DEEPER

3. As a group, press into the full narrative of Gideon. Read the entirety of Judges 6-8 together before diving into the corresponding discussion questions.

[Bible Gateway Link \(Click to Access\) | Judges 6-8 \(NIV\)](#)

**Judges 6:13-16 (NIV)** – <sup>13</sup>“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.” <sup>14</sup>The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?” <sup>15</sup>“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.” <sup>16</sup>The Lord answered, “I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

- a) What was the spiritual climate in the nation of Israel during Gideon's story?
  - b) How did God choose to respond to this spiritual climate? What does this say about God's character and how He operates?
4. Gideon's Calling and Testing of God (Judges 6) | Discussion Questions
    - a) How does Gideon respond to God's calling? What do you make of his testing of God's guidance through the fleece? How would you summarize Gideon's faith?
    - b) How does God address Gideon's doubt and fear?
    - c) In what way(s) do you bring your doubt and fears to God and attempt to discern God's will? How has God met you during those times?

## 5. Gideon Defeats the Midianites (Judges 7) | Discussion Questions

- a) What do you think of God's battle plan for Gideon and the Israelites against their enemies the Midianites? Why does God bring this plan to Gideon?

**Judges 7:1-4 (NIV)** – <sup>1</sup>Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh. <sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.' <sup>3</sup>Now announce to the army, 'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'" So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. <sup>4</sup>But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

- b) Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. As we see in God's interactions with Gideon and His deliverance of His people, ultimate breakthrough requires us to fight with a reliance upon God and the weapons He's given us.

**Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)** – <sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

**2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (NIV)** – <sup>3</sup>For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. <sup>4</sup>The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. <sup>6</sup>And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

What battles do you commonly tend to fight solely by your own strength?

What does it look like to fight your battles *with* God?

## 6. The End of Gideon's Story (Judges 8) | Discussion Questions

- a) How would you describe the final portion of Gideon's life? Was the breakthrough that Gideon and the nation of Israel experienced a lasting one?

- b) What are some temptations that work against long-term faithfulness to God?

## TAKING IT HOME

7. In our last series God Breathed, we were exhorted to look for Jesus on every page of the Bible. How can we understand Jesus as a “greater Gideon” for God’s people?
8. Is there an area of your life where you’re longing to experience breakthrough? If so, share about that (if you’re willing) and pray together for breakthrough.

Psalm 34:4-11 (NIV) – <sup>4</sup>I sought the Lord, and he answered me;  
he delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup>Those who look to him are radiant;  
their faces are never covered with shame.

<sup>6</sup>This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;  
he saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,  
and he delivers them.

<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

<sup>9</sup>Fear the Lord, you his holy people,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup>The lions may grow weak and hungry,  
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

<sup>11</sup>Come, my children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING - THINGS TO KNOW

1. Baby Dedication | Have you welcomed a new baby to your family over the last year? Congratulations! We’re excited to celebrate your child at Baby Dedication on March 9th. The Baby Dedication experience will teach you how to lead your child in their faith, show you ways that Rivers Crossing will partner with you on this journey, and give you the opportunity to dedicate your child. Learn more and register below. <https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1978441>
2. Clarifying the Bible Workshop | Interested in diving deeper into God’s Word, but not sure where to start? Through the Clarifying the Bible workshop, you’ll learn the basic framework and storyline of the Bible in just one morning! We’ll gather at both campuses on Saturday, March 16th from 9am-12pm to watch the video course together over coffee. Register using this link: <https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2163020>
3. Serve at Rivers Crossing | One of the marks of a fully engaged follower is their willingness to invest into God’s kingdom with their time, talents, and resources. We have opportunities to serve all throughout the week! Find the team that’s the right fit for you and partner with us to create an environment for people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus. Learn more at <https://riverscrossing.com/serve-here/>