

WEEK 1 — TAKING POSSESSION OF WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED

“Accomplishing the Call”

A 6-Week Course on the ‘where, what & why’ of the church

Overall course purpose:

- Move forward in faith to accomplish what God has called the church to do.
- understand the nature and purpose of the local church
- cultivate strong relationships and Kingdom culture
- hear and obey God
- help build secure and healthy churches, therefore secure and healthy people
- To develop a people who understand God’s calling (biblical leadership)

Week 1 — Where are we going?

→ Taking Possession of What God Has Promised-Chris

Week 2 — What exactly are we building?

→ The Basis & Boundaries of the Church-Alistair

Week 3 — How do we build with people?

→ Developing Relationships-Logan

Week 4 — How does the leader receive direction?

→ Hearing God Speak-Alistair

Week 5 — What does healthy church leadership produce?

→ Growth, Security & Stability-Logan

Week 6 — Who must the leader become?

→ God's Calling (Biblical Leadership)- Chris

Section 1 (15)- Chris

TAKING POSSESSION OF THE LAND BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND PHYSICALLY

Today we're going to look at God's plan for us, the incredible inheritance we have in Him and where He's placed us.

- We'll then examine and have a look at some of the hindrances we face when it comes to taking possession of that inheritance

God has called Equipped church to this region for an inheritance of souls, communities, Denver, Colorado, our nation and the nations of the earth!

- Yet we can so easily fall into the trap of complacency, becoming satisfied with the status quo
 - Losing our fervency over time
- But God's plans and purposes still remain!
 - We have a great inheritance that awaits us all!

God has given His church a great and exciting mandate!

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

This mandate was given to every born-again believer in every age – including us.

We are to “go and take possession.”

We are to “go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them ...” teaching them to obey everything Jesus has said.

Yet, most Christians never obey this command and many never become involved!

Why?

It is often because they keep going around the same old mountain.

Deuteronomy 1:6-8 (NIV) ⁶*The LORD our God said to us at Horeb, “You have stayed long enough at this mountain. ⁷Break camp and advance into the hill country of the Amorites; go to all the neighboring peoples in the Arabah, in the mountains, in the western foothills, in the Negev and along the coast, to the land of the Canaanites and to Lebanon, as far as the great river, the Euphrates. ⁸See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land the LORD swore He would give to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—and to their descendants after them.”*

Deuteronomy 1:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹*Then, as the LORD our God commanded us, we set out from Horeb and went toward the hill country of the Amorites through all that vast and dreadful wilderness that you have seen, and so we reached Kadesh Barnea.* ²⁰*Then I said*

to you, “You have reached the hill country of the Amorites, which the LORD our God is giving us. ²¹See, the LORD your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, told you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

GOD ENCOURAGES US AND COMMANDS US TO BREAK CAMP & MOVE ON!

1. Recognize the mountains

Mountains of the past

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

- **Past successes**

- Faith does not dwell on the past, but looks to the future with God.

PROBLEM: No longer anticipating the future Kingdom breaking in upon the present. (When we live back there, it's impossible to then live in what's ahead)

There is no future in our past!

- *Isaiah 43:18 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.*

- **Past hurts**

- These bring insecurities.

- People let you down, they become unfaithful, they may even desert you.
- Self-pity causes you to look inward instead of upward.
- We have to let those things go, to forgive and not allow offense to remain

PROBLEM 1: Not experiencing God's presence and assurance.

PROBLEM 2: Looking at yourself and not at God.

- **Past failures**

- These take the form of unfulfilled expectations,
 - the failure of something attempted,
 - hopes deferred,
 - projects 'turning sour'
- This affects the present and the future in that we avoid attempting anything again or setting goals for ourselves and our church in case we fail again.
- *"I'd rather attempt something great for God and fail, than attempt nothing and succeed!"*
- We may lack self-confidence, feeling others can do the job better than we can.
- Remember ***Phil 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.***

PROBLEM: Not experiencing the love of Christ.

1 Jn 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Mountains of the mind

- **Negativity**

- **Negative statements:**

- We receive negative criticism about ourselves and our church as though it's true.

- **Negative confession:**

- About yourself:

- Your self-worth
- Your abilities – ***Phil 4:13 “I can do all things...”***
- A lack of self-confidence, thinking someone else can do it better than you.

What God says: ***Gen 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.***

² “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

- About others:

- Who have disappointed you.
- Who are doing better than you!
 - You criticise them
 - you enjoy hearing criticism about them.
 - You know it is wrong, but you keep going round the mountain.

PROBLEM 1. Not experiencing the active belief of God’s Word, but wallowing in doubt

PROBLEM 2. Not knowing the Word of God and His promises for your life.

- ***Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2, 3***
- ***Jeremiah 29:11 “I know My plans towards you.”***
- ***Isaiah 54:17 “No weapon formed...”***

- **Poverty spirit** (mentality)

- It is a 'me first' – 'What's in it for me?' attitude.
 - Some pastors have put this spirit upon their people.
 - They are beaten before they start – "My people would not agree or cannot afford it!"
- There is also a lack of faith, growth and finance.
 - Joint ventures:
 - My/Our people – we hoard them
 - My/Our time and energy
 - My/Our money – we take, but won't give.

Prov 11:24 One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. ²⁵ A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

- This is an irrational fear that keeps us constantly afraid to risk and trust that God is enough

Genesis 22:6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God Himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

PROBLEM 1. Not understanding the will of God, and not putting action to what you say you believe.

PROBLEM 2. Not understanding the nature of God and His faithfulness to His promises

- **Lack of vision**

PROBLEM: Not having the mind of God.

Prov 29:18 “Where there is no vision...”

1 Cor 2:12-16- mind of the Spirit

- If you do not have vision you begin to drift!

- **Lack of faith**

Heb 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please God.”

PROBLEM 1. Not grasping the will of God-if He says it, He will do it and provide for it!

PROBLEM 2. Not putting action to what you say you believe- it requires stepping out!

Mountains of self

- **Independence**

- Some confuse an independent spirit (or independence) with autonomy!

- God is against independence and He wants inter-dependence.

John 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

- “Nobody tells me what to do!”
- “I won’t do anything unless it benefits me and my work!”
- “I don’t need you or your help!”
 - This in spite of the fact that God has given us a strategy to work together!
- One of the most shocking things to me is to see the lack of willingness to do things together with those of similar vision and values!

PROBLEM 1: Rebellion & Isolation

PROBLEM 2: Leads to sin

● Competition

- Always seeing others as a threat:
 - Be like Job and pray for others (***Job 42:10***).
- So many build their work by taking down another’s.
 - “We can do that better than they can!”
 - “They’re only successful because of”
- Always making decisions out of expediency instead of that which is beneficial.
 - Trying to keep up, instead of being Spirit led and Kingdom focused

2 Corinthians 10:10 For some say, “His letters are weighty and forceful, but in person he is unimpressive and his speaking amounts to nothing.” ¹¹ Such people should realize that what we are in our letters when we are absent, we will be in our actions when we are present.

¹² We do not dare to classify or compare ourselves with some who commend themselves. When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise. ¹³ We, however, will not boast beyond proper limits, but will confine our boasting to the sphere of service God Himself has assigned to us

1 Cor 10:23 "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive.

PROBLEM 1. Lack of confidence in the Holy Spirit's ability to lead us

PROBLEM 2. Not understanding that the church belongs to God.

PROBLEM 3. Not understanding that a man's ministry makes room for him.

Prov 18:16 A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.

PROBLEM 4. Not understanding where promotion comes from

Ps 75:6 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. It is God who judges: He brings one down, He exalts another.

PROBLEM 5. Not understanding that flesh gives birth to flesh!

Jn 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Mountains of spiritual neglect

- Little prayer

James 4:2 “You have not because you ask not.”

- God has constantly called us to prayer but we do not co-operate.
 - Break this camp!
 - This has to become a huge priority!

PROBLEM: Wrong priorities. Consumed with the wrong things.

- **Little Word**

- ***2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

PROBLEM: Wrong priorities.

- Apostles' priorities – ***Acts 6:2-4, 7.***

- **Lack of Obedience**

- **Overfed but undernourished!**
 - Some are receiving the Word but not digesting it (meditating upon and putting it into practice).
 - Therefore the Word does not nourish the body/soul/ spirit.

John 14:15 “If you love me, keep my commands.

PROBLEM: Not living out what God speaks to you.

- **Enjoying the benefits without the accountability**
 - We need to take responsibility for change within ourselves.

- We should look for ways to become involved in the life of the church. Do not 'hide in the crowd'.
- For some, 'Here am I, Your servant' is not a reality but an intellectual concept.

PROBLEM: Not willing to take responsibility for change within ourselves.

- **Serving Jesus is a drudgery – not exciting**
 - Jesus promised, ***John 10:10*** "... life more abundantly."
 - But He must be Lord!
 - We must take up our cross daily.
 - We must give what costs – not out of our abundance.
 - Until we're all-in, we'll never get to live in the full measure of God's plans for our lives!

PROBLEM: Double-minded, James 1:5-8.

- **Not joining in the lifestyle of the church (examples)**
 - • Home groups
 - • Prayer meetings.
 - • Times of fasting.
 - • Sacrificial giving.
 - • Tithing.
 - • Evangelism.
 - • Upliftment programs toward the poor and oppressed.
 - • Worship and praise
 - • Teaching – i.e. Sunday School.

- **Not baptized in water**
- **Not baptized in the Holy Spirit**
- **Not taking responsibility for our family**
 - Praying for and disciplining children, etc.
- **Not affecting our communities**
 - Our neighborhood
 - Workplace and school, etc.

The point is that yesterday's experience and habits—good or bad—can become today's mountain.

(Potential break for everyone)

2. Break camp —

Simply – look outwards and get involved.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Stop looking inward and hoarding your life!

Matt 16:25 “Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for Me will find it.”

1 Cor 10:24 “Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.”

Phil 2:4 “Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Ecc. 5:13 “I have seen a grievous evil under the sun; wealth hoarded to the harm of its owner.”

- Stop hoarding your life
- Look beyond yourself
- Give
- Serve
- Get involved
- Seek the good of others

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

¹⁹...You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price...

3. Advance — Go — Take possession of the land!

ADVANCE

Don't simply maintain what exists!

- No room for just ‘maintaining the status quo’.
- No room for a ‘don’t rock the boat’ mentality.
- No room for a ‘settler’ mentality.

GO- Develop a pioneer mentality!

Take the Gospel:

- Across the street
- Across the city
- Across nations

TAKE- possession of the land

a) Start where you are.

- Get equipped and go!
- Get involved and equipped at the same time!
 - Don't wait until you're 'ready', but be readied by the journey, both the successes and the failures!

b) See the vision with us. Embrace the vision with us!

Deut 1:5 "Moses began to expound...break camp..."

c) Find your place in the body. ***Deut 1:13,15***

Some possibilities to involved and help to lead:

- • Fellowship/Homegroup
- • Youth
- • Young married couples
- • Divorced people
- • Retired people
- • Musicians and singers – worship/praise group
- Discipleship of others
- • Kids's Church
- • Media/Social Media
- • Soup kitchen/caring for the poor
- • Leadership-take on responsibilities where God leads you

- • Homegroup host/leaders
- • Bible studies at home/work/coffee shop
- • E2M Bible school

d) Prayer must become a passion in our lives, otherwise what we do will be natural not spiritual,

Jn 3:6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Acts 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. ² So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. ³ Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them ⁴ and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

⁵ This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. ⁶ They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

⁷ So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

4. See God correctly —

It's key that we, from start to finish, keep returning to who God is:

- All-sufficient- **Exodus 3:¹⁴** *God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”*
- Compassionate- **3:⁷** *The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.*
- Deliverer- **Ex 3:8** *So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey*
- Covenant-keeping/Faithful to His promises- **3:17** *And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites—a land flowing with milk and honey.’*

Before Israel could move forward, Moses had to know **the God who was calling them forward.**

We, too, must see Him to be all of this to us if we want to ‘Break Camp’!

Ian McKellar: *“We must break away from our present position (even our places of personal security and comfort – the places where we settle and gratify the flesh). We must give ourselves totally to God and see things with the mind of Christ and be motivated by the will of God” (Rom 12:1,2).*

“Prayer must become a passion in our lives.

The Word must become our foundation.

Inactivity must be choked to death.

The Holy Spirit must be allowed the freedom to rule in our lives.

The eternally lost must become our burden.

The Kingdom of God must become our goal.”

Deut 1:21 “See, the Lord your God has given you the land. Go up and take possession of it...”

John 17:4 (NIV) “I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.

Final Discussion/Application — @15 min

Have everyone answer these three questions privately first, then discuss:

- 1. What mountain have I been circling?**
- 2. What is God asking me to leave behind?**
- 3. Where is God asking me to ADVANCE, GO and TAKE responsibility?**

Then ask each person to write an action statement:

“Because of what God has shown me during this meeting, I will _____.”

Final prayer —

Pray specifically for:

- Conviction to change**
- Courage to lead**

- **Grace to serve**
- **Sensitivity to hear God**
- **Strength to build relationships**
- **Love for Christ's Church**
- **Faith to advance**