

Small Group Discussion Guide
Session Five
PRAYING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

CHECKING IN:

What changes have you noticed in your prayer life at this point in our 40 day experience?

KEY VERSE

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

JEREMIAH 29:13 (NIV)

VIDEO #5: Watch the video lesson now and follow along in your outline (below). *Note: be sure to load the video on your computer prior to watching it in your group. Sometimes it takes some time to load it.*

VIDEO NOTES:

SIX Keys FOR PRAYING FOR A BREAKTHROUGH

Key #1: Let God _____.

The more you fill your mind with Scripture, the more your prayers will be answered, because you will be praying according to the Word of God.

Key #2: Focus _____.

Key #3: Express _____.

Key #4: Demonstrate _____.

Key #5: Thank God _____.

Key #6: Humbly _____.

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

Choose the questions that are right for your group and take time to let God work in your lives.

1. Daniel waited seventy years for his breakthrough. How do you identify with Daniel's story? Have you ever had to pray for months or even years for a breakthrough? What was the outcome?
2. What is the breakthrough prayer you are asking God about right now?
3. Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV) says, "*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*" What does it mean to you to seek the Lord with all your heart? Tell about a time when you sought God with your whole heart and found him?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Be doers of the Word by applying the things you are learning.

IN YOUR GROUP—PRAY TOGETHER

Turn to "Our Prayers & Praise" on page 204 and write down each other's breakthrough prayer requests. Pray for those requests now.

Commit to praying for each other every day this week. Let people know you've prayed for them with a quick phone call, text message or handwritten note.

IN YOUR LIFE: THE IMPORTANCE OF FASTING

Have you ever fasted while praying and waiting for a breakthrough? Take a few minutes, as a group or on your own, to read the "Fasting Guide" on page 186 (also available online in the 40 DOP Prayer Resources section). What breakthrough do you want to fast about this week? It can be your prayer or the prayer of someone in your group. What kind of fast will you commit to: a biblical fast – going without food for a period of time – or a fast from something that distracts you from your relationship with God – like electronics (phone, movies, social media), working overtime, or an over-committed social calendar? Decide on a specific date to fast this week. Get it on your calendar.

DAILY PRAYER JOURNAL: For those who have the 40 DOP Study Guide.

Encourage your group members to read the daily verse and do the reflection questions.

BEFORE YOU GO: WHAT DECISIONS DO YOU NEED TO MAKE AS A GROUP ABOUT YOUR NEXT SMALL GROUP STUDY?

There is only one week left in the study, so start to talk about next-step options for your group. Here are several options:

- 1) Continue as a group for another 4-6 week study. Since the holidays are upon us, you could set a date to reconvene the first week of January. We will also give you a resource called 12 Ways of Christmas—12 ways to engage your small group during the holiday season.

- 2) If your group is not going to continue—consider starting your own group after the first of the year. For more info on how to do this, email groups@crossroadscolorado.com
- 3) Join another small group. For more info email groups@crossroadscolorado.com

Being in a small group is one of the best things you can do to maximize your growth. It's how God has made us (for relationships).

Be sure to plan an additional group meeting just for fellowship and to celebrate all that God is doing in your lives. Then think about what kind of study you will do next. We encourage you to continue to explore the power of prayer as a group through the new prayer guide, *Experience God's Power through Prayer*, available at PastorRick.com