

BREAKTHROUGH, Week 2: "Promise"

Sermon Outline

Introduction:

- Recap of the previous sermon on "Who are you?"
 - The foundation for breakthrough: Knowing your identity in Christ.
- Emphasis on the next step: Believing in the promises of God.

I. Human Promises vs. God's Promises:

- Discuss the nature of human promises.
 - Often empty words without intention to fulfill.
- Share personal experiences of broken promises.
 - Highlight the impact of broken promises on trust.
- Introduce Ecclesiastes 5:5 as solid advice: "It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it."
 - Apply this principle to promises made to God and each other.

II. Challenging the Perception of God's Promises:

- Address the common belief that God doesn't always fulfill His promises.
- Introduce 2 Peter 3:8-9a to emphasize God's faithfulness and patience.
- Clarify that God's promises may not align with our timing.
 - Example: Jesus calming the storm (Mark 4:35-41).
- Stress the importance of aligning ourselves with God's promises and not thinking they are provisional.

III. The Storm as the Breakthrough:

- Emphasize that the storm itself might be the breakthrough.
- Use the disciples' reaction in the storm as an example.
 - Describe the fierce storm and disciples' panic.
 - Explain that Jesus was in the boat but asleep.
 - Compare the disciples' reaction to Jesus' calm demeanor.
- Highlight the radical difference between the disciples' and Jesus' responses.
- Remind participants that Jesus is with them in their storms.

IV. Holding onto God's Promises:

- Encourage participants to hold onto God's promises like a piece of a boat.
- Provide examples of God's promises:
 - "I will not forsake you."
 - "I am your provider."
 - "I love you."
 - "I will never leave you."
 - "Even when you walk through the valley, I am there with you."
- Stress the importance of not letting faith in God's promises falter in the midst of a storm.

V. The Answer for Breakthrough: Jesus:

- Reinforce that only Jesus is the answer for breakthrough.
- Explain that trust in something else or forgetting Jesus' authority and power hinders breakthrough.
- Breakthrough occurs when we hold onto the promise, power, and authority of Jesus.

Conclusion:

- Encourage self-reflection on the storms individuals need breakthroughs from.
- Encourage participants to lean into Jesus, hear His voice, and find comfort in His promises.
- Emphasize that the promises of God provide the hope needed to experience breakthrough.

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Sermon Notes

Introduction:

- Series Recap – Last week we talked about “Who are you”
- The foundation for breakthrough starts with knowing Who You Are in Christ
 - You are not your accomplishments
 - You are not your hobbies
 - You are not your experiences
 - You are Saved by Grace, a Child of God and friend of Jesus!

The Next Step – Believe the Promises of God

We make promises all the time...

- To a person who paid for your coffee... “Next time coffee is on me!”
- To a person you ran into but were in a hurry... “I’ll call you later!”
- To a person you borrowed \$20 dollars from... “I’ll pay you back!”
- To a family member who lives far away... “Next time I am in the area I’ll stop by”

The problem with many of our promises... they aren’t really promises...

- They’re just kind words
- If someone says this to you... you really aren’t expecting it to happen

If we called them on their promise... it might be offensive...

- I am ready for that coffee you owe me, see you at Starbucks
- I am ready for you to call me... it later now
- It’s been three days and I need my \$20 dollars back
- I heard you were one state over and you didn’t come to see me

On a more serious note: Many of us have been deeply wounded by broken promises...

- I married you for life and now you’re cheating on me
- You promised to stop drinking
- You said my job was secure and now I am being laid off
- You said this was a safe place, but now my secrets are all over town
- You said you loved me...

Unfortunately, even spiritual leaders make promises and fail

Human Nature: Once someone breaks a Promise... you’re less likely to trust them

- One broken promise puts an unfair tax on the next person who makes a promise

Ecclesiastes 5:5 (NLT) It is better to say nothing than to make a promise and not keep it.

This is solid advice...

- Don’t make promises to God you aren’t willing to keep
- Don’t make promises to each other you can’t keep
- Both of these are devastating to you and hurt others

Unfortunately, many feel... that if God has promises He doesn’t keep them

- God didn’t heal

- God didn't provide in time
- God didn't answer my prayer
- God didn't protect

2 Peter 3:8–9a (NLT) But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day. 9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think...

For you to experience Breakthrough in your life... You'll need to trust in the promises of God

- God never breaks His promise
- God never over-promises
- BUT... God's promise may not come when you think they should

Biblical Example: Jesus calming the storm

Mark 4:35–41 (NLT) As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake." 36 So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). 37 But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. 38 Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" 39 When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. 40 Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

The PROMISE:

Mark 4:35 (NLT) As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

This promise went in one ear and out the other...

- One of our problems with God's promises is that we think they are provisional
- God's promise is for someone else... not me
- God doesn't like me as much as someone else, so He fulfills promises for others
- God will hold on to a promise until you decide to get in alignment with Him...

MY STORY: Called to ministry at 15... ran from God for 6 years

- When I surrendered to Jesus... God reminded me of His promise

The disciples didn't trust the promise Jesus gave them...

- When the storm came and it looked like they would drown... they freaked out!

Mark 4:37 (NLT) But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

REMEMBER: It was evening when they set sail... by now it was dark!

- Fierce storm
- Waves are breaking into the boat
- The boat is taking on water

REMEMBER: These guys had tons of experience in boats during rough water... These guys started to panic

To be clear: **THE STORM IS THE BREAKTHROUGH YOU AND I ARE LOOKING FOR THAT IS CURRENTLY CRASHING IN AROUND US**

NOTICE: Where was Jesus when the disciples needed a Breakthrough?

Mark 4:38 (NLT) Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion...

TWO THINGS:

- ONE - Jesus was asleep in the back of the boat during the storm
- TWO – Jesus was in the boat

In the middle of your storm, it's easy to forget Jesus is in the storm with us

NOTICE the radical difference between the disciple's and Jesus' response to the storm

Mark 4:38b (NLT) ...The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

The disciples are shouting in panic...

- They are convinced this storm is going to kill us

We get the very same way... It's easy to feel like the storm is more than you can handle

We have to hold on to the Promise of Jesus: His words... AND His word!

Hypothetical: Even if the boat was broken to pieces... they were still going to make it to the other side of the lake... BECAUSE JESUS SAID IT!

- There will be times when you have to hold on to God's word like it is a piece of boat
- You will have to HOLD ON and Believe in God's promises!
 - I will not forsake you
 - I am your provider
 - I love you
 - I will never leave you
 - Even when you walk through the valley (shadow of death) I am there with you!

Don't let your faith in the promise of God's almighty power falter in the middle of your storm

This passage of scripture is here because the disciples didn't trust in the promise of God or know the authority and power of God

Mark 4:41 (NLT) The disciples were absolutely terrified. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "Even the wind and waves obey him!"

Only Jesus is the answer for your Breakthrough...

- When you put your trust in something else... you won't see a breakthrough
- When you forget about the authority and power of Jesus you won't see a breakthrough
- Breakthrough happens as we hold on to the promise, power, and authority of Jesus!
- Then you will see your breakthrough to the other side of the lake

CONCLUSION:

Q: What storm do you need a breakthrough from?

- Lean into Jesus today and hear His voice... He will comfort you with His promise
- The Whisper of His Spirit
- The promise found in His word
- The promises of God give us the Hope we need to see breakthrough

BREAKTHROUGH, Week 2: "Promise"

Transcript

Well, last week, as we kicked off this series called Breakthrough, we were kind of looking at the concept that everybody needs a breakthrough. Everybody feels stuck someplace, everybody feels defeated somewhere. Everybody feels overwhelmed some place in life, everybody's at a point where they need a breakthrough, you need a spiritual breakthrough, you maybe need an emotional or a mental, whatever it is, you need a relationship breakthrough, right? Everybody needs a breakthrough. And if you don't need one, now you're going to need one. And so last week, we started off and we said, look, the foundation for spiritual breakthrough in your life is knowing who you are. You remember that question from last week? Who are you? That was a big question. You thought it was easy at the beginning? But then you realized, wow, that is a big question. And we discovered that, look, you are not, you are not just your accomplishments, you are not just your experiences in life, you are not just what your hobbies are, you are something grander than all of those things. In fact, God says, This is who you are, you are saved by grace, you are a child of God, you are a friend of Jesus, walking in the freedom of the Holy Spirit. That is who you are. Amen. Right. That's a whole different level of who you are than you trying to define when you graduated from high school, or how long you've been married, or how many kids you have, who you are is a deep spiritual question that if you don't get that right, then the foundation to see spiritual breakthrough in your life is not going to happen. Today, though, I want to build on that. This whole series I'm going to keep building on what are the principles that you need in your life, if you want to see spiritual breakthrough. And today, the second one is this you have to believe the promises of God.

God has promises God gives promises. And you Amir gonna have to find out what those promises are. And then we're gonna have to hang on to them. And you're gonna see what I mean by that today. And today's message and a really clear way, we though we tend to make a lot of promises to one another. Have you ever gone out to coffee with a friend? And then they paid for the coffee? And you said that you said to them this? Like I promise, I'll pay for coffee next time? You guys, you guys remember that? One? If you have you ever done that one? How about this, you've been in a hurry, you've been rushing through store, you run into a friend, and you say to them, I promise, I'll call you later. Right? Ever been in a place where you went out to lunch with some friends. And all of a sudden you realize, hey, I don't have any money? Can I borrow 20 bucks, and they give you 20 bucks. And you say to them, I promise, I'll pay as soon as you guys know what I'm talking about. Right? You ever been close to a family member as you've been traveling on a road trip someplace, but you didn't go and visit them and you felt a little guilty? And so you gave them a call? And you said I promise the next time I'm close to you. I'll stop and I'll see you. If you guys ever made those kinds of promises before. See, the problem with our promises is that our promises really aren't promises.

A promises tend to be kind words shared between one person and another one. And and if someone makes a promise, like what I just said to you, you don't really expect them to fulfill that promise. I mean, it's kind of like we say kind words to each other in this way. But we're not expecting it. Can you imagine what it would be like if we lived in a world where all of a sudden you got a phone call? And you were like, Hey, you remember you said you were promised to buy coffee? Well, I'm ready for that coffee.

Hey, you were a sweet one stayed over from me. And you didn't come and visit me You promised you would come and visit me. Hey, you know that 20 bucks I gave you I need that 20 bucks. And I need it right now. I'm coming by your house. Like what if we if we live in that kind of a world it would be a very, very interesting world. And reason is because many of the promises that we make, we don't really intend to keep. But on a very serious note. There's some of you that have been deeply wounded by promises that have been broken to you.

I thought we married for life. I thought that we married one another and that, you know we were going to be faithful to one another and now you've gone and you've cheated on me.

Right? Hey, you promised that you were going to stop drinking.

Man now I'm wounded.

Right? Hey, Mr. Boss, you said that my job was secure and now I'm getting laid off.

It's up for that.

Hey, Mr. Counselor, Mr. Pastor, you said this was a safe place for me to come and share and now all my secrets are spread out all over town.

It's not an amen. There's no Amen. There.

Oh, that's wounded. That's hurting people.

Right? Hey,

you said you loved me. Dot dot dot.

You said you loved me.

Have you ever been caught in one of those moments where any of those kinds of promises have wounded you?

Unfortunately, unfortunately, many of us have made those promises.

Unfortunately, we've been both on the promising side and the receiving side.

And it's not a good place to be. But that's the world that we live in our human nature is this, our human nature is to go look, hey, look, you made a promise to me, and you didn't fulfill that promise. Now, I don't trust you. And there's good reason for that. In fact, Ecclesiastes five five says it this way says it's better to say nothing than to make a promise and not to keep it. That's some heavy words.

Basically, there's another place in Scripture says this, let your yes be yes and your no be No. Meaning, look, don't open your big mouth and say something that you can't fulfill. In fact, in in business, a lot of times, there's a lot of businesses that will talk in this manner. And they'll say this, look, let's not let's not over promise and under deliver. If you want to drive a customer away from your business, then over promise and under deliver, right, it would always be better for you to say it's going to be worse, and it comes in better. And in our lives. We've been wounded by one another. And unfortunately, we brought that and we've laid that upon God. And we said, well, if we treat each other that way, that must be how God treats us. And that God, if God has promises, I'm not sure that God actually keeps his promise. And here's the reason why. Because maybe you're like, hey, look, God didn't heal my friend.

God, you didn't restore my marriage. God you didn't provide for me when I was in a very serious time of need.

God, you didn't answer prayers. God, you didn't protect.

God, I thought you made these promises. But now my life is a living hell. Now I'm going through these devastating moments now I have lost people and things that I really have loved.

And we think that that is the way that God handles life, because we tend to treat each other that way.

But I want you to listen to what the Bible says about God's promises. and Second Peter, chapter three, verses eight through nine. It says this, but you must not forget this one thing, dear friends, okay, this meaning like, look, hey, what I'm getting ready to say to you is very important. A day is like 1000 years to the Lord. And 1000 years is like a day, guys pause for a second. Some people have just taken that completely out of context. And they've tried to discern like how long the earth is in existence, because the you know, one day is like 1000 years and 1000 years is like one day, and they've got themselves all wrapped up in this mathematic equation. And can I just say, if that's you, let it go.

Just let it go. All right, let it go. Because here's what he's really trying to get to. He's trying to help you understand the timing of his promises. And he says, The Lord isn't really being slow about his promises, as some people think. That's all he's trying to do. He's just trying to let you know, your timing isn't God's timing. Your ways aren't God's ways. What you think God should do is not what God tends to do when you think God should respond is not when God tends to respond. God's timing is different than your timing. But that doesn't mean God doesn't fulfill his promises.

That's the important thing that we have to remember. Just because it doesn't seem like God's moving at the time you think he ought to doesn't mean that God says one thing, and does another.

But for you to experience breakthrough in your life, then you're going to have to start trusting in the promises of God that never that God never breaks His promise that God never over promises, but God will come through at just the right moment. So to help you grasp this today, okay, to help you see a spiritual breakthrough in your life by holding on to the promises of God, I want to take you to a classic passage of scripture that I think really highlights for us what happens with God's promise and our timing. And I want to use this to try to help overlay on top of our lives today. So that maybe just maybe you might grab a hold of the promises of God today in such a way that you

hang on to him with your with your life, believing that God you can, you can see me through whatever I'm facing and that

illustration today come straight from God's word. It's found in the book of Mark, Mark chapter four, verse 35, through 41. Okay, so if you got a Bible, open it up, Mark chapter four, verse 35, through 41.

If not look on the screens with me says this. As evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, let's cross to the other side of the lake.

So they took Jesus in the boat, and they started out, leaving the crowds behind, although other boats followed. But as soon but soon, a fierce storm came up high waves were breaking into the boat and they began to fill with water. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples they woke him up shouting, Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drowned. But when Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and the waves said, silence, be still. And suddenly the winds stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked his disciples, Why are you afraid? Do you still not have any faith?

And the disciples were absolutely terrified. Who is this man? They asked each other, even the winds and the waves, they obey Him. So we're talking about the promises of God. And in this scripture, there was a promise that Jesus gave Did you catch the promise? The promise was found in verse 35. So if you didn't catch it, I want to go back to the beginning, verse 35, it says, As evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, here's the promise, Jesus promised the disciples, let's cross to the other side of the lake.

That's the promise. So many times the promises of God go in one ear, and they go right out our other one. And that's exactly what happened for the disciples that day. For them, they were accustomed to being on a lake, this was their job. Before following Jesus, they were fishermen, they had been on this leg both nights and day, they had been on this leg day after day, after day, night, after night, after night, they knew this leg, like the back of their hand. And for them, they just thought that the routine of life was just going to be the routine that we were gonna hop in the boat. And we were gonna go to the other side of the lake, which by the way, I've been to the Sea of Galilee. And when you're on one side, you can see to the other side.

It's not that big. But it does sit below sea level.

And because it sits below sea level, then the storms that are raging over here at the Mediterranean, they come rushing in, up in over the mountains, and they come slamming down into the Sea of Galilee. And you can get some pretty brutal waves starting to happen at the Sea of Galilee as storms start raging. And it's just the topography and the way that the the winds work and winds coming off of off the ocean and over the mountains, and how they just kind of rush into that place. And so they experienced even storms in the past. But this moment, they had forgot the promise, the promise went in one year, and it went out the other and the promise was this, Jesus said, Let's go to the other side.

See, one of our problems is that we forget the promises of God all the time. In fact, we believe that the promises of God are actually provisional, meaning this, well, the promises of God are for someone else, not for me. The God likes this other person more than he likes me. And therefore the promises of God are fulfilled in their life more than they are mine. And I just want you to know today that God's promises are not provisional, in the sense of that he likes you more than he likes someone else. But I will say this about God's promises, God will hold on to his promises and wait for you to align with him before releasing those promises in your life. So today, if you're walking outside of a relationship with Jesus Christ, you just need to know that today, some of God's promises are on hold until you align with him. So in my life as an example, I was in a service like this, I was sitting up in the balcony, and I was called the ministry at the age of 15. And at 15 years old, I knew without a shadow of a doubt, God called me the ministry. But I started running the opposite direction. I wanted nothing to do with that. I'm running away from God for six years of my life, running away from God, I get into some deep dark sin. I am way out there, right. I mean, my whole life is hanging by a thread. When I surrender my life to Jesus at three o'clock in the morning and Bellevue, Nebraska, in that apartment, Jesus met me in that moment, and he shows up and he goes, Welcome home, son. Don't forget the call that I have on your life because it never changes.

See, some people think that the promises of God are provisional, and that somehow my sin is going to work me to a place where Now God doesn't love me and God's never going to minister to my life ever again. And I just want you to know you can't sin. You're way out of the love of God,

that the love of God keeps chasing you. He keeps following you. He keeps haunting you down. So it doesn't matter who you are today. It just doesn't matter. It doesn't matter how far you've gone doesn't matter what your life looks doesn't matter how much you think your life stinks right now, it doesn't matter how much you tried to walk in late, sit in the back and try to escape early. I want you to know today, Jesus loves you.

And he hasn't given up on you. Right, because I know what it feels like. I know what the promises of God feel like when you've walked so far away that you're not even sure. Because I my my prayer to God was this, if you will take me back,

if you will, I know what that if you will, God feels like, I know that guys. And I just want you didn't know today that God waits with his promises faithfully, until we line up with him. And then something amazing happens. But the problem is that the disciples, like many of us today, the disciples didn't trust the promise of God.

They didn't trust the promise of Jesus. And so when the storm starts raging around them, they start freaking out.

And that's where you see like Mark for 37. Right. But as soon as the fierce storm came up, high waves were breaking into the boats, and it began to fill with water. And what did the disciples say to Jesus? They woke him up and they say, Don't you care that we're going to drown? That was their words. Jesus, don't you care? Right? It's because that they forgot. They forgot the promise of God. Here's what we got to remember. It was evening when the storm came up. But it was night guys when they're experiencing this. Right. So here's these fishermen, right? This fear storm is what the Bible tells us fear storm, waves are breaking into the boat. The boats filling with water.

These guys though, they got tons of experience on the lake, I get it, right. And they know now they know, hey, look, we are in a bad spot. Like that's one of the things like they had experience to know this. Sometimes we walk through life, we don't even have experience, even gauge how bad is the situation? It just feels bad. Like I got bit by mosquito and it's the end of the world bad. You ever been in that situation? I got a scratch and I gotta go the emergency bad, right? Like you don't know what bad is okay? And so these guys know they know what it is. They know that the storm is bad. And can I stop for a moment in this in this biblical text. And just make sure that you know what the storm is, the storm is the breakthrough that you're looking for. But you're caught in right now. And it feels chaotic and crazy. And it feels like you might even drowned. And it feels like you may not come out of this storm, that whatever it is that you're facing feels like the storm that the disciples are facing, where your life is filling with water, your life is filling with pain, but your life is like out of control right now. And you're saying to Jesus, the very same thing that disciples said to him, don't you care?

If your prayers sounded like that this past week,

this past month,

maybe this past year, like Don't you care?

This is what's interesting to me, in the midst of them wondering if Jesus cared.

In verse 38, it says that Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat, with his head on the cushion.

Let me let me just like break that down for a minute. In the midst of the storm, that the disciples who were well educated at, you know, being on a boat in the middle of a lake

that in the midst of that storm, where they felt like they were going to die, where there was no hope, and they weren't going to make it through at all.

Jesus wasn't panicking.

Jesus was actually asleep.

Now you might go, Well, that's not right. He shouldn't be asleep. He should have been up helping us, which is what the disciples attitude was.

But but can we just step back from it for a moment?

If my life is going through a storm where it seems so bad, that I'm not sure I'm gonna make it.

And Jesus is asleep, right beside me.

I'm gonna tell you right now. You're gonna make it

I think they forgot who's in the boat.

And sometimes your storm seems so great.

Like there is no solution for it.

But Jesus, it hasn't even rocked him. And it's not because he doesn't care. It's because he knows the promise.

and the promise was, you're going to the other side. The promise for you today is this, you're going to see a break through Jesus, it might feel like he's not answering. But he's there with you. See, because that's the obvious isn't the isn't the obvious the thing that we tend to overlook the most. The obvious was this, Jesus is still in the boat guys. Now, I would totally freak out if I'm in the middle of a lake, and borders coming into my boats. And Jesus was in the boat with me when we started the journey. And now I see Jesus walking on the water, but not toward me.

That's when you start freaking out. When you turn around, and he was like, he was just there. Look, he's over there. Everyone bail, right? I mean, it's a bad moment. It's a bad moment. But Jesus was in the boat with them, guys. That's the important part.

That's the important part. So I don't know where you're at in the middle of your storm. But Jesus is in the boat with you.

So sir, right, or ma'am. You're at a point where it seems like there's no hope. And you're wondering, should you even hang on to life? Should you even hang on anymore? Should you fight any longer, I just want you to know today. Jesus has not abandon you. He's in the boat. You're in a marriage, and you're ready to throw in the towel. This doesn't seem like it's ever going to work. Listen to me, Jesus is in the boat with you. He hasn't abandoned you. And if he hasn't abandoned you, then you don't abandon the storm. Because breakthrough is on the backside of the storm.

Breakthrough is on the backside of when you feel like your life can't make it another moment. That's when breakthrough happens. And many times God allows our faith to be built in that moment. Will you trust me all the way through the storm? Because at the last moment, yes, I do have the authority. And yes, if I have to exercise that I will, I will stand up and I will speak to those waves. And I will speak to that wind. And I'll say Be calm. And Jesus can do the very same thing in your heart, he can do the very same thing in your mind, he can do the very same thing for you spiritually.

That's what we see right here. And that's why you see this radical difference between you know, the disciples responding in verse 38. You know, Teacher, don't you care that we're, that we're drowning versus Jesus response. Sometimes guys, sometimes we got to hang on to to the words of Jesus, and we got to hang on to his word. Like it's a piece of like, it's a piece of wood at Drift at the ocean, the ocean. And all you have to hang on to is this. Can I just hypothetically tell you this today, that even if the disciples gotten to the middle of the lake, and the storm was so great, and the waves were so crazy, and the water was so like, ridiculous, and it seemed like they were going to drown that the boat broke into 100 pieces.

Can I say this to you that even if the boat broke into 100 pieces, they're still making it to the other side. Why? Because Jesus said it. So in your life, your life it can be, it could be that everything falls apart, all the wheels fall off the tricycle, the marriage falls apart, it ends up in divorce, right, you could end up in a place where man you've got, you go through three jobs, you keep losing them, you could get to a point where it's at the most despair you have ever felt before, can I just say this to you, if you'll hang on to one promise of God, like it's a piece of driftwood off of the boat, you hang on to a Jesus is gonna see you through to the other side.

He's just gonna do that. But you got to hang on to it.

You gotta hang on to it. Like it's everything you got. And sometimes all you have is one scripture. Sometimes that's all you got. Sometimes all you have is one whisper that keeps echoing in your head and in your heart that comes from prayer. That's all you got. And you're hanging on to it. And the waves are bouncing you all over the place. And all you have is that and then you come into church, and all of a sudden there's this worship song, because it might have nothing to do with the sermon. But there's this worship song, and this one line in the worst of song and it just gets you and you grab a hold of that. And you hang on to that for the next week. And then you walk in and write and then you're here again and all of a sudden it is a scripture that said or it's an illustration and you grab a hold of that, and you hang on to it. Because here's one thing I know. One thing I know is that your your marriage could have been divorced 10 years ago. I've watched American marriages that were divorced. 10 years ago, be restored. I've watched wayward sons come back home. I've watched daughters who have gone off the deep end, come back home. I've watched God provide I've watched God heal broken hearts. I've watched God

mend wounds that came from 20 years ago. I've watched God mend them. Why? Because he's in the boat with you and doesn't matter what the storm looks like. You just gotta keep hanging on because Jesus said, I will take you to the other side, I am your breakthrough, I will see you through. That's who he is guys.

Now, what in the world? Am I going to say?

No, I just really simply just want to end with this.

What breakthrough do you need?

me seriously?

Well break the DNA.

I think

like I jokingly talked about if I'm in the middle of the storm, and Jesus got out of the boat and, and he's walking away from me, which is never gonna happen, then I would freak out.

But really what happens more often than not, is that Jesus was with us in the midst of that storm. And we're the ones that bailed, we freaked out, we got out of the boat. And now we're off drifting by ourself.

And we walked away from him.

And today, what I'm going to do is this,

it's going to be a little different. But if you need a break through it, and if our campuses, you need a spiritual breakthrough, here's what we need to do, we need to come back, we need to get back in the boat with Jesus, meaning we need to get back in alignment with Him. Jesus, I'm going to start trusting you again, I haven't been trusting you, but I'm going to trust you, Jesus, I haven't been running to you, like I ought to be running to You for this break through my life, I'm going to start running to you.

Okay, and for some of you, you just got to get back in the boat. For others of you what you were going through, it seems like it just has evaporated, it just blew up. And maybe right now all you have to hang on to is that one scripture.

And what I'm going to do today is this as we prepare to worship at all of our campuses, I'm just going to invite you to do something and Ogallala North Platte, and here at the Kearney campus and online, you'll you'll have to figure out what this looks like for you at your own home.

But for some of you, you need to get back in the boat with Jesus, or you're not going to see the breakthrough. And so we're gonna make a physical move today that represents a spiritual action. And the physical move is we're gonna make a move to the front. If you need breakthrough, spiritual breakthrough in your life, relational breakthrough, a mental break through an emotional break that you need to break through in your life need to get back in the boat with Jesus, than in a moment I'm gonna, I'm just gonna invite you to come and stand up here in the front. That's going to be you getting out of where you're at going, Jesus, I'm getting back into alignment with you. For others of you, everything's blown up, everything's eviscerated. And all you have to hang on to is one piece of driftwood. It's all you got, you got one piece. And if that's where you're at in life, man, we want to rally with you. Right, we're not going to be a church that says to you go, go, go walk out your difficult days by yourself. We want to walk with you, we want to love you, we want you to know that you're not alone. You might feel like you're drifting in the ocean, and there's no one around. But there's many of us drifting in the ocean, hanging onto one piece of scripture, hanging on to one truth hanging on to one relationship. And so I want you to feel free, I want you to get up out of your seat, and I want you to come and I want you to stand with us here as well. And then what will happen is as worship goes on, okay, then I miss as worship goes on, we're gonna get past the first song, we're just gonna let the first song be the first song. But during the second song, I want some of you just to make your way and come and I want you to start praying with some of these that are up here. See, sometimes people respond to our altars and we're too quick to respond to them. They need time just to be with Jesus. Now everybody that responds to the altar wants 20 people coming in gathering around them. Right, so I just gave you your way out, by the way.

If you if you don't feel comfortable with people coming in and praying with you, then right as that second song starts, you're gonna make your way back to your seat.

You see what I did for you?

I wouldn't recommend that.

I would not recommend that.

Okay, but that's what we're gonna do. So once you stand with me at all of our campuses

I'm gonna pray. As I'm praying, if you need to get back in the boat with Jesus, you've abandoned it, you've walked away could be you walked away relationally from him, or you just walked away because you took control the situation I want you to come. And if you're hanging on to this at one piece, you're not going to hang out alone any longer. Right? And so I want you to come and we're just going to spend some time worshiping Jesus. He's our solution. He's our answer. And then we're going to have an opportunity to pray with each other. All right, so guys, don't be afraid. You're gonna feel like I'm the only one moving know, while we're praying. You're moving. All right.

Come on. Let's do this. Father, thank you for today. Thank You that You

Your Word is true. Lord, thank You that even though we walk through crazy moments and crazy times, Lord, you're there with us. And Lord many times, we just need to get back in the boat with you. Many times, God, that's what it is. We want spiritual breakthrough. We got to get in alignment with you. If we want spiritual breakthrough God we got to be, we got to be connected to you, Lord, and so I know what I know what it's like God to be at Drift and feel like I only got one piece of word to hang on to I got one thing of hope to hang on to I know what that feels like. And today, Lord, would you give hope to our church in all of our campuses as people or as people respond? Would you give hope to them? Would you give a promise to them? And may we believe your promises because we hang on to your promises? We're going to see spiritual breakthrough is the Lord I pray for that at all of our churches, Lord at all of our campuses in Jesus name. Amen. Amen. All right, guys, look, take me up on it. All right. Tell me I'm gonna tell you right now. He wants to spiritual breakthrough. You make a move, and God's gonna do something amazing in your life. All right, so come on, let's make that move.

BREAKTHROUGH, Week 2: "Promise"

Small Group Guide

Ice Breaker: "Promise Sharing"

- Begin the discussion by having each participant share one promise they made to someone recently.
 - Ask them to briefly share whether they were able to fulfill the promise and how it made them feel.
 - Encourage honesty, even if they couldn't keep the promise.

Discussion Starters:

1. The Nature of Promises

- Discuss the different types of promises mentioned in the ice breaker (e.g., buying coffee, returning a call, repaying a debt). Do you think it's common for people to make promises lightly without intending to keep them?

2. Impact of Broken Promises

- Share personal experiences or observations of how broken promises can affect trust in relationships, both personally and professionally. How do you react when someone breaks a promise to you?

3. Ecclesiastes 5:5

- Read Ecclesiastes 5:5 together. What is the wisdom in this verse regarding making promises? How can this principle apply to our commitments to God and each other?

4. Trust in God's Promises

- Reflect on the belief that God sometimes doesn't fulfill His promises. Have you ever felt this way? Share any experiences or doubts you've had regarding God's promises.
- Discuss the idea that God's timing may not align with our expectations. How can we learn to trust His timing even when it doesn't match ours?

5. The Storm as a Metaphor

- Talk about the concept of the storm as a metaphor for challenges and difficulties in life. Share personal experiences of going through difficult times and feeling like you were in a "storm."
- How easy or difficult is it to remember that Jesus is with you during your "storms"? Discuss strategies for maintaining faith and trust in challenging circumstances.

6. Holding Onto God's Promises

- Explore the idea of holding onto God's promises, even when things seem to be falling apart. How can we apply this concept practically in our lives when facing adversity?
- Share specific promises from the Bible that provide comfort and hope during difficult times. How can these promises help us hold on to faith?

7. The Role of Jesus in Breakthrough

- Discuss the idea that Jesus is the answer for breakthrough. What does this mean to you personally?
- How can we avoid seeking breakthrough from sources other than Jesus and His promises?

Additional Bible Passages for Discussion:

Proverbs 19:5 (NIV)

- Discuss the implications of this verse for making promises and the significance of fulfilling them.

Numbers 23:19 (NIV)

- Reflect on the nature of God's promises and His faithfulness. How does God's reliability differ from human promises?

Conclusion:

- Encourage participants to reflect on the storms or challenges they are currently facing or have faced recently.
- Share any personal experiences where you felt God's promises brought you breakthrough or comfort during difficult times.
- Conclude with a time of prayer, asking God to help each participant trust in His promises and find hope and breakthrough in their lives.