

# **BREAKTHROUGH, Week 4: "Others"**

## Sermon Outline

### **I. Introduction**

- Mention the book: "The Power of the Other" by Dr. Henry Cloud
- Share a personal anecdote about Mark, a Navy Seal brother-in-law, and his friend Bryce during "Hell Week."
- Describe the critical moment when Mark's encouragement saved Bryce.
- Pose a question: What happened in this moment?
- Introduce the theme: The invisible and immaterial meeting the visible and material world - The Power of the Other.

### **II. The Role of Others in Breakthroughs**

- Highlight that when we're stuck and need a breakthrough, we often pray for God to intervene.
- Emphasize that God frequently uses people as instruments for change.
- Enumerate ways people can facilitate breakthroughs: encouraging words, invitations, walking alongside others, and sharing prophetic insights.
- Quote Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) - "He [Jesus] makes the whole body fit together perfectly..."
- Illustrate with a puzzle analogy, showing that each person is designed to help others grow and experience breakthroughs.
- Acknowledge the problem: Many feel unqualified to help others due to their own issues and failures.

### **III. We All Have Issues**

- Engage the audience with questions about their own struggles and imperfections.
- Challenge the idea that anyone has it "all together" by referencing the concept of denial.
- Cite 2 Corinthians 7:5-6 (NLT) as evidence that even the Apostle Paul faced challenges.
- Explain how God used Titus' encouraging words to bring about a breakthrough for Paul, paralleling Mark's encouragement to Bryce.

### **IV. Never Underestimate the Power of the Other**

- Reinforce the central message: Never underestimate how God can use you in the life of another person.
- Transition to a biblical story: 1 Samuel 11.
- Describe the situation where people were surrounded by an enemy and their values were compromised.
- Emphasize that people stuck in such situations often lack hope.
- Quote verses 5-7, showing that King Saul's message brought hope and vision to the people.
- Highlight the resulting joy that filled the city as an outcome of the message.

### **V. The Impact of Encouragement**

- Reiterate the Power of the Other concept in action.
- Stress that sometimes, all it takes to see a breakthrough is someone willing to walk, fight, and share.
- Share a personal example of Kingdom Builders' generosity in Cuba.
- Mention encounters with Cuban pastors and churches, and their stories.
- Discuss specific acts of generosity, such as purchasing pork for an outreach, buying fans, and helping with debts.

- Explain how these acts had a profound impact on the pastors and churches.
- Describe how witnessing this transformed the Nebraska pastors who traveled to Cuba.

## **VI. Conclusion**

- Encourage the congregation to make the message personal.
- Suggest looking to others as God's answer for their breakthroughs.
- Stress the importance of staying connected to both God and others.
- Quote 2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT) - "He comforts us in all our troubles..."
- Issue a challenge to those who feel surrounded by the enemy and in need of a breakthrough.
- Invite them to come to the altar for prayer during worship, potentially meeting someone who can help them navigate their challenges.

## **BREAKTHROUGH, Week 4: “Others”**

### Sermon Notes

#### **Introduction:**

**Book:** The Power of the Other by Dr. Henry Cloud

- Mark, his Navy Seal brother-in-law
- His friend Bryce
- During “Hell Week”
  - Last long swim
  - Mark finished
  - Bryce broke 100 yards offshore
  - His body wouldn’t move
  - Mark’s eyes met Bryce’s eyes
  - Mark yelled... GO!
  - Bryce said... *“Something happened and my body began to move and the next thing I knew, I was on the beach”*

#### **Q: What was that? What happened?**

- The invisible and immaterial met the visible and material world
- The Power of the Other

**When we’re stuck and need a breakthrough...** we pray for God to show up and rescue us... Give us the Breakthrough

#### **God often uses people...**

- Encouraging words
- Invite
- Walk alongside you for a season
- Prophetic word

Ephesians 4:16 tells us how this works...

Ephesians 4:16 (NLT) He [Jesus] makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

#### **Illustration:** Puzzle

- Each part is perfectly cut to fit together with the other parts
- Jesus is the one who shaped us to fit perfectly together
- You are designed to help others grow... see a breakthrough!

**Problem:** Many don’t feel qualified to help others see a breakthrough...

- We know our failures... our issues... We know the breakthrough we need

Q: How many of you have issues?

Q: Where is the person who has it all together? (Let me show you denial)

## **Even the Apostle Paul dealt with issues**

2 Corinthians 7:5–6 (NLT) When we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside and fear on the inside. <sup>6</sup> But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus.

### **LOOK WHAT GOD DID...**

- God sent Titus to give Paul a Breakthrough...
- God used the encouraging words of Titus to cause a Breakthrough
- Just like Mark's "GO!" to Bryce caused him to dig deeper and find a strength he didn't know he had...

### **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF THE OTHER!**

### **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE HOW GOD CAN USE YOU IN THE LIFE OF ANOTHER!**

### **I want to help you see this principle at work...**

1 Samuel 11

(vs. 1 – 2) People are surrounded by an enemy... controlling their freedom

- People in the trap of the enemy lower their values...
- They turn a bad situation into a worse situation
- They get the wrong people around them

(vs. 3) They tried to compromise with the enemy

- People who feel stuck settle for something way below God's best

(vs. 4) Look at what happened when their messengers shared with others...

- There was no HOPE!
- People who are stuck lack HOPE... nothing can change...

### **THE POWER OF THE OTHER**

(vs. 5 – 7) King Saul sends a new message... One with HOPE and VISION

(vs. 9) Look what happened when the message reached the people trapped by the enemy

### **JOY FILLED THE CITY!**

**THIS IS THE POWER OF THE OTHER...** to help you see a breakthrough!

**SOMETIMES ALL IT TAKES TO SEE A BREAKTHROUGH...** IS SOMEONE ELSE WILLING TO WALK WITH YOU... FIGHT WITH YOU... SHARE WHAT THEY HAVE!

### **WE DID THIS THROUGH KINGDOM BUILDERS LAST MONTH IN CUBA...**

- God used our Kingdom Builder generosity to bring Joy to some pastors and churches in Cuba last month...
- I took 5 Nebraska pastors from small towns and small churches to Cuba (PIC)
- We visited with many pastors and churches in Cuba
- Heard their stories.... Prayed with them... and helped meet their needs...

**Story:** Purchased Pork for an upcoming outreach to the community (\$250) (PIC)

- We also gave them an additional \$250 so the church people could eat too!
- The auditorium erupted in praise!!

**Story:** House Church was full... they wanted to purchase more land... we talked about multiple services... it was eye-opening for them! (PIC)

- As we talked it was VERY HOT because they only had one working fan in the area for Church services
- A new fan cost \$80... they needed 6... we purchased the fans
- Their leadership team erupted with praise to God!

**Story:** Teen Challenge (PIC)

- Men's Rehabilitation Ministry
- They have a great property with all kinds of fruit trees
- They sell the product to help offset the cost of running the place
- The pastors only get paid \$20 a month
- They are given \$120 a month to feed the guys and pay the other bills
- The government shut down their fruit stand and said you owe us \$400 in taxes
- I don't agree with the communist government... But, we gave them \$1000 to pay their debt, reopen the fruit stand business, and help them with the expenses
- The pastors have run this ministry without a vacation for 14 years... We gave them a breakthrough... we gave them \$1000 to take some time off, go on a vacation, and stay refreshed!

**NOW... what happened to the 5 pastors from Nebraska who witnessed this?**

- They were blown away and God used it to speak to them and expand their heart and vision for God!

**Video:** NE Pastors Cuba GO Trip

**CONCLUSION:**

**Make it personal...**

- Look toward others as God's answer for your breakthrough
- Be attentive to the needs of others...
- God may have sent you to help them experience a Breakthrough!

**Illustration:** How many of you have flown on a commercial flight lately?

- What is the first thing you do when you land?
- Turn on your cell phone
- The phone says "searching"
- Your phone needs a NETWORK connection to work
- We need to be connected to others... to work!
- If you're not on a Network... no calls... no one to call... isolated and lonely

**First, Be connected with God on His network**

**Secondly, stay connected to others**

*Listen to the power of this truth...*

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT) He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

**Challenge:** If you feel like the people of Jabesh... the enemy has surrounded you and you need a breakthrough...

- Come to the altar during worship and someone will meet you for prayer
- Who knows... you might meet a friend who can help you walk through it!

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### Transcript

All right, everybody, man, it is good to be at New Life. I hope that you are glad you came today. Are you glad you came today? I mean, come on. Come on, it's an opportunity to gather together here at New Life church and to worship the Lord. We get to sing together, we get to hear from God's Word, we get to pray together, we get to encourage one another, we get a lift what up one another, right? I mean, come on new life, church should be the most encouraging place you go to all week long. I hope that's the case for your life. So I want to say a big hello to everybody worshipping with us at all of our campuses, we've got our physical campuses, we've got our online campus. My name is Jeff Baker, I'm one of the pastors on staff Glad to have you here with us, especially if you are a guest. With us. So we are in the we're in a series that we entitled break through. And that's because we really discovered in life that all of us are in a place where we feel stuck from time to time, where we feel like we're hope has depleted, right, where we're lacking joy, where we are wanting a spiritual breakthrough, maybe we needed an emotional or mental breakthrough, right, we're wanting to have a breakthrough and cut addiction off in our life, maybe we're wanting to see a breakthrough. And we want to see our passion for Jesus increase, we want to see a breakthrough in our prayer life increase. I mean, I don't know what kind of breakthrough you're looking for. But everybody's looking for a breakthrough. And that's the reason why you don't stay the way you are, you keep moving you keep you keep adjusting to keep changing, you keep becoming the man to the woman that God designed you to be. And here at New Life, we want to help you become that man or that woman that we feel like that's part of our mission is to help you become the person God called you to be. Because we recognize that every single one of you is unique, and you're uniquely different from the person sitting next to you. And if you're married right now, you know that, right? uniquely different, right. And that's what makes you better together. So we overlook the things that kind of frustrate us because we are better together. And we want to help you be those people. So we're talking about breakthrough. If you want to know more about the series, you can go back to my new life church.com. And you can watch the previous weeks in this series. So I'm not going to give a review of those good, there's like three of them. But this week, I really want to talk about how God uses others, to help us see spiritual breakthrough in our life. How God uses others. I mean, come on, let's just admit it right now. If I if I walked around with a microphone, and we went out to one of our campuses with a microphone. And I asked you the question like, Hey, give me the name of somebody that's in your past that helped you get to where you are, you'd be able to give me a name. In fact, many of you would be able to give me more than one name, you'd be able to share with me the name of a teacher or a professor, you might use your parents name, you might use a neighbor, you might use a friend that God brought into your life, but that person helped you they might have helped you find a new freedom in your life, they might have helped you, you know, accomplish something that you never could have accomplished by yourself. But every single one of us has somebody like that in our life. Am I right about this? Come on. This is interactive. This is interactive. All right. Okay. All right. Very good. All of us have a person like that. There's a book. It was written a number of years ago by Dr. Henry Cloud, a Christian psychologist. And he wrote the book in the entitled that this the power of the other, the power of the other. And in the book, he talks about his brother in law Mark, who is a Navy Seal, I mean, come on somebody. That's tough stuff, right? And he's like, I always go to my brother in law mark, because I kind of see him as like my older brother. And I go to him, and I just say, Mark, come on, tell me some cool stories about where you've been and what you've done. And you know, what's happened in your life, I just want to hear give me some of those, you know, Navy SEAL stories. And he says, Mark always looks at him with a smile on his face. And he just says, he goes Henry, you know, if I tell you the stories, I'm gonna have to kill you. And he's like, Okay, well tell me the stories, you can tell me that you don't have to kill me. And he says, Well, let me take you back to you know, training training to become a seal. And I don't know if you've watched the shows on TV about though they've been around for quite a while. But it's intense. Its intense. And maybe, maybe, you know, 900 or 1000 or more, enter, you know, the program at the beginning. And then the entire program is designed to try to like push you to your breaking point and have people ring the bell and go, I'm out like, and I can't do this. I'm just going to be in the Navy. Right? I'm not going to be a Navy SEAL. And so they do that. And then they get all the way down to this week that they call the last week called Hell Week. And this week, they keep you up. They push you even farther

than you ever thought. They got you out and they're they're swimming in the ocean. You're pulling barges, you're doing stuff you're trying to survive, they got you into hypothermic situations, trying to pull Is your body to the breaking point. And they're trying to whittle this group down, they might go into Hell Week with 100 or 200. And they're gonna whittle it down to 20 or 25. Mark is in his last leg of the last swim, and he finally finishes it and he gets to shore. And he looks out for his buddy because then when you go through this training, you get assigned a buddy and his buddies name. They call them Bryce that his real name, but that's what they call them in the book, Bryce, and Bryce is out there. And Bryce is trying to finish this endurance leg of this entire training and get to the beach. And if you get to the beach, you finish and you're a Navy SEAL. And Bryce is about 100 yards off shore, and his body just stops, it's been pushed to the breaking point, the muscles don't want to move anymore. Have you ever been to the gym, right? And you've been curling or you've been bench pressing, or you've been doing something with your legs, and you get to that spot where those muscles are just not going to move that weight anymore? You know, like, have you ever been to that spot? Some of you are like the gym. What's that? Yeah, but you get to this point where you're curling, it's just that you can't go any farther. And Bryce's body got that way. But it was in the ocean. And he knew that man, if he doesn't get help, he's going to sink and he starts to kind of look around and he's thinking to himself, I only have 100 yards to go, I can see the finish line, but my body won't move. It will move and he looks up and Bryce's eyes catch Mark's eyes on the beach. And Mark, when his eyes connect, he looks out at his friend Bryce, and he goes, Go, Go Bryce, go. And Bryce tells the story about how something happened. And it was as if this fresh energy strength filled his body, and it's like he goes, the next thing I know is that my body is floating over the water, and I am at the beach, and I finished and I'm a Navy SEAL. What is that? What what is that? When you can't push yourself any farther, you can't go another moment. And someone else yells go, and you find a strength on the inside of you. It's like this invisible, immaterial. Something connects with a visible material world. What is that? And I would suggest to you it is the power of the other. It is the power of one person in another person's life, that we can do this, because let's just admit it, that when we when we're stuck, and we need a breakthrough. Now we're in a hopeless situation. We're like Bryce, and we're out there in the water, and we don't know where to go. And we're praying to God, and we're saying, God, rescue us. Rescue me right now. God, I'm stuck. I don't know where to go. I'm hopeless. I'm in my basement with depression. I don't know what the next step is like, I'm angry. I'm gonna lash out. I don't know what to do. God rescued me. If you don't rescue me, God, I'm dead. And we look for some supernatural move of God, which God by the way, God does things supernaturally, by the way, we're going to talk about that in an upcoming week of the series. But many times God sends another human being into your life. And that human being shows up with a word of encouragement. Go, they may have showed up in your life with an invite. Hey, and I don't know what's going on. But I was just thinking about you. And so I thought I would call you and invite you to come to my church with me on a Sunday morning. Anybody ever got that kind of a call? The invite call. So some of you, you had people, they just all of a sudden they showed up in your life just when you needed them. And they just walked with you through the journey of life. Like we all have had people come along, some of us have even experienced people coming along in our life with a prophetic word of God just spoken through them going, Hey, I don't know what's going on with you. But I was reading in my Bible and this verse stood out to me and I'm gonna give it to you or I don't know what's going on with you. But man, I just sensed this and they speak it to you and it is anchored itself in your soul because there was something that was spoken by God but it was through another the power of the other. Let me show you what that looks like at work in Ephesians chapter four, verse 16. It says that he being meaning Jesus, He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. Okay, now he's talking. He's talking about the body of Christ, but that could also be the body of new life. It could be the body of our campus and Ogallala as an example. And so he makes the whole body fit together perfectly. Now watch this, as each part does its own special work. It helps the other parts grow so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. Did you find yourself in that scripture by the way? Because in that scripture, You are the it.

It doesn't sound very significant. But it's powerful. It meaning you insert your name, Jeff Baker helps the other parts grow so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. It does insert your name right now. It is and I know the Scripture is not up there anymore. But connect scripture stay up there, while we're talking about it for a second. Just put your name in there. It's you put your name in, because God's going this, like I put you together perfectly. So that you could help the rest of the body see a spiritual breakthrough and see the rest of the



body be healthy, that you realize that's how God designed you. That means this like It's like a puzzle. And if you put puzzles together, then you know that each piece is cut just in a certain way with a certain print on it. So it fits in just one spot of the puzzle. If you try to fit that piece somewhere else, it doesn't work. It won't fit. It doesn't even look right. If you could make it fit, it doesn't have the right print on it. See, that's what Jesus did for you. Jesus made you unique. He shaped you just the way he wanted you to be so that you'd be a perfect fit in his body show that you could help others experience a spiritual breakthrough. That's how he designed you. That's who you are guys, is that good news or not? I think that's great news, by the way, that he designed you to help others grow. The problem is that many of you don't feel qualified. Why? Why don't you feel qualified to help another one? See a spiritual breakthrough? What Why would you say, Well, Pastor, that's your job, because you see your failures. And you see your faults, and you see all of your issues. And because you can see your faults and your failures and your issues better by the way than anyone else can. You're like, who am I to help someone else? See a spiritual breakthrough? When I need multiple spiritual breakthroughs in my life? Well, can we just take a survey in the room really quick and all of our auditoriums and if you're sitting at home alone participate. All right, here. Here's the question. With a raise of hands. How many of you guys have issues? All right, just hold your hand up. Okay. Look around. Just look around for a moment, people. We all have issues, but God wants to use us. Okay, put your hands down. Now. Where is the one person that doesn't have any issues at all? All right, no issues at all. Nothing. Nothing's going wrong. You've got everything's perfect in your life. God would say you are the perfect human beings ever walk the Earth ever? Right? Well, that person if you are here, I would have them stand so I can show you what denial actually looks like. So I'm thankful that you guys lowered your hand because I was that close. I know. You're joking. So I kind of was like, I'm gonna stall for a minute. I got to stop because I don't want to throw him under the bus. He has a look, I love a person that's got a good joke. Anyways, we all have issues. Did you realize that the Apostle Paul who wrote most of the New Testament by the way, most of the New Testament, the man had issues. Okay. And God, you still used him to write all of these books of the Bible and to help plant all these churches and to be an instrument in God's hands to propel the message of Jesus into the into the four far reaches of the world. Here's what here's what he says. Okay, talking about one of his journeys in second Corinthians chapter seven, verses five through six, says this, that when he arrived, when we arrived in Macedonia, there was no rest for us. We faced conflict from every direction, with battles on the outside, and what on the inside, fear on the inside, but watch this, but God who encourages those who are discouraged, which by the way, some of your bibles will actually use the word depression there. Watch this. But God who encourages those who are discouraged or depressed, encouraged us by the watt by the arrival of who? Titus, by the arrival of another, God sent another he sent one of us into the life of Paul, Paul's good friend, Titus, he sent him into his life to do what? To bring a spiritual breakthrough. To bring a spiritual breakthrough. Paul is saying here, look, on the outside, we're facing many physical battles, and in the oppression from different people, but on the inside, I'm facing incredible fear. Oh, and by the way, there are many times when I'm even feeling depressed. And so what does God do to see the spiritual breakthrough? He sends his good friend Titus, just the sheer fact that Titus showed up in his life brought encouragement. Has any of you ever felt that way before where you were in a dark difficult place and someone showed up, they may have showed up on a FaceTime call or a zoom call, or they may have shown up physically in person, or they may have showed up in that sporadic text message. Have you ever had someone show up in a dark moment, and that person just brought hope to you? I have. And when that happens, it is good news. But it goes on to say that even the words that tide is brought, brought encouragement. So two things one, he showed up, and he brought encouragement, God knew he needed it. But also the words that he brought, brought encouragement as well, here's what I want you to know. That was just like Mark standing on the shore, yelling out to his friend Bryce, in the water go. Sometimes we just need somebody to show up in our life and say, Go, sometimes we need somebody to show up in our life and go, it's gonna be okay. Sometimes we need somebody to show up in our life and say, God's got this, sometimes we need somebody to just show up in our life and just, you know, put their arm around us while tears flow down our face with no words to say at all. Sometimes it's just you and your presence in the midst of someone else, that's going to all of a sudden give them a strength that they couldn't find anywhere else, and God's using the power of the other through you. So guys, never, ever underestimate the power of the other. And by the way, never underestimate how God can use you to see someone else find spiritual freedom. I want to help you anchor that though in Scripture. So if you have a

Bible, I want you to turn with me to First Samuel chapter 11. If you don't have an analog written Bible, I want you to get your digital one out right because on your phone, you've got tons of different versions. I want you to go to First Samuel chapter 11. I know the Scriptures are going to be on the screen. Okay, that's the easy way. I need you to have this because you're going to want to look at this later. First Samuel chapter 11. If you don't know where that is, it's in the Old Testament. Okay. So that means it's the it's in the first half of the book and First Samuel comes before Second Samuel that's just a little bit of you know, Bible knowledge for you that you might find helpful but here's what we're talking about the power of the other and and we're looking at how does the power of the other impact me and how does God use me to help others see a spiritual breakthrough? First Samuel chapter 11. here here's the background of the story. It starts in verse one, it says King Nash of Amon led his army against the Israelites so the enemy led his army against the Israelites town though Okay, not just an army against an entire town called J bash Gilead, someone say J. Besh. Okay, you're gonna want that knowledge for later. But all the citizens of Jay bez asked for peace. All the citizens instead of taking up their sword, taking up their shield and fighting back, they asked for the enemy immediately for peace. Why? Because this enemy had a he kind of had an image in the region, he had a really bad image. And we'll show you what that image is here in just a minute. And they said this to the enemy that Oh, make a treaty with you make a treaty with us. And we'll be your servants. They pleaded in verse two. All right, and they hashed, the enemy said, but only on one condition that I will gouge out the right I have every one of you as a disgrace to all of Israel. First and foremost, I just want you to see how people get surrounded by the enemy. Sometimes that happens, because they're not paying attention. That could have happened here, that people just weren't paying attention to people, we're too comfortable. Sometimes when we're too comfortable, we get besieged by the enemy. Sometimes when we're too lazy, the the enemy kind of has the ability to kind of, you know, surround us and hold us captive right where we are, and we start to feel stuck. But other times, guys, I just want you to know, it doesn't always happen that way. You don't always get into this place where you need a spiritual breakthrough. Because of your laziness. Sometimes the enemy just has a plan to come against you. And you didn't know that you didn't know sometimes the enemy does has a plan to come against you. And the erosion of his attack over time on your soul sometimes gets you to a place where you're in need of spiritual breakthrough. It happens for all of us. But that's that's where the people find themselves. They're trapped by an enemy. And so what do the people do? They immediately go make a treaty with us. Here's what I've discovered about people that are stuck, that feel overwhelmed and are in need of the power of the other in their life. Many times they lower their values, and they start making foolish decisions. They take a bad situation and they turn it into a worse situation. Because they they start to lack hope. And so watch what the people do in verse three. Right? Here's what they do in verse three. They say look, okay enemy give us seven days to send messengers throughout Israel, but some of our friends and pals live in another towns. Reply the elders of Jay bash. If no One comes to save us that we will agree to your terms. Meaning like, Yeah, it's cool, it's fine. Let us go send for some help give us a week to do that, if no one comes, will surrender to you, which means what that will let you gouge out our right eye, gouge it out as a disgrace to all of Israel. Now, that's disgusting. And that's got a deeper meaning to it. But we won't get into that right now. But that's what happens when people are stuck. When people are stuck, they start making these like, they start coming up with these ideas where they're like, I just want to get out of where I am. And instead of searching for God's best, they settle for something less than God's best. Have you ever been stuck in your life? Have you ever felt like, you know, this is a difficult place that I'm in? I don't know how I'm gonna get out of this. And so you kind of compromise your way out of it? And does it really truly get better? No, it might only get better for a short time, but then the pains right back again. Because whenever we compromise our way out of something, we're really just walking ourselves from one problem into another problem. And the first problem never goes away. So now we adopted a second problem. And things just keep getting worse and worse and worse. But that's what happens when people are stuck. And they don't have the right people around them. And so look, here's what happens, their Messengers go out, and they show up to one town, we get the account of their Messengers showing up to one town. And what happened in this one town. It's probably what happened to all of the towns that their Messengers went to verse four, when the messengers came to Gibby up of Saul and told the people about their plight, everyone did what they broke into tears, there was hopelessness. This is what happens when we don't have the power of the other in our life. were hopeless hope depletes we end up with a lack of hope in our lives.

And these messengers, kind of give us a snapshot into the hearts of the people that are they've got an enemy surrounded them and they feel stuck. And they're in need of the power of the other in their life. And that's where we go often a hope, hope the pleats guys, the longer you feel spiritually stuck, until you get to a point where you're just like, this is as good as it's going to get it can't get any better. And then you settle and you go, I'm just going to live with this addiction. I'm just going to live with this this problem. I'm just gonna live with this unforgiveness. I'm just going to live with this anger. I'm just going to live this way. And that's what the enemy loves the enemy loves for us to be a people have no hope. But we need the power of the other to see spiritual breakthrough in our lives. And that's what you see happen in this next verses. Look with me what happens in verse five through seven, says Then Saul, Saul had been plowing a field with his oxen. And when he returned to town in the last eight, what is the matter? Why is everyone crying? So they told him about the message from Jay Besh, then the Spirit of God came powerfully upon Saul. And he became very angry, he took two oxen, and he cut them into pieces. And he sent them messengers to carry them throughout Israel with this message. This is what will happen to the oxen of anyone who refuses to follow Saul and Samuel in to battle. The people that are surrounded by the enemy are in need of the power of the other. And here he is, right here rising up, he's rising up, and he's like, look, that's no, that's not going to happen to my friend. I'm not gonna let my friend live in depression by themselves. I'm not gonna let my friend live isolated by themselves. I'm not going to let my friend live a life surrounded by the enemy, where the enemy is choking out all of the essence of life from them. I've seen it, I hear about it. I'm not going to sit here idly and just let that happen. And guys, why is the church on planet Earth? The churches on planet earth? Because there are people that are just like those of Jay bez, and they're surrounded by the enemy? And what is the message of Jesus? I'm going to come and rescue you. What is the message then of the of those that sit here today listening to this message, that are full of the life giving hope of Jesus Christ? What is our message, our message to be that of assault, like, hey, look, no, we're not going to let that happen. We are going to fight for the souls of those that are in our city, we're going to fight for the souls of those that are in our town, we're going to fight for the souls of those who are in our family, we are definitely gonna fight for the souls of those who are in our church. That's the attitude. And what happens then when that message gets back to the people of Jay bash those who are surrounded by the enemy. Look at verse nine. It's awesome. It says this. So Saul sent the messengers back to Jay bez Gilead to say, we will rescue you by noon time tomorrow. And there was great joy throughout the town when that message arrived. Come on somebody. I mean, when when the person that got Put in your life to help rescue you shows up, there should be great joy. And I don't know about you, but man, I have experienced that in my life. I've experienced people coming alongside of me, helping me walk through a difficult season, and it brought joy to my life. And so have you. So have you and guess what God wants to use you in that way as well. And sometimes all it takes is to see a breakthrough in your life. Sometimes all it takes is just to see someone else who's willing to come alongside Walk and walk with you, someone that's willing to come alongside walk with you, someone who's willing to come along and fight with you, someone who's willing to come along and just help share what they have. Sometimes, that's all it takes. Did you realize that New Life church just did this in August through Kingdom builders, through Kingdom builders, we came alongside and we encouraged pastors down in Cuba, that in August, I took five pastors with me down to Cuba, from small towns in Nebraska, small churches, the largest churches, somewhere in the neighborhood of 45 people. And we handpick these guys. And we invited him to go on this trip with us so that we could inspire them and encourage them and invest into their lives because we thought if we invest into the pastor's life, that we get the chance to invest into the church's life, and we wanted to help these pastors have a vision of what God could do. We wanted to help them see a breakthrough in their life. We wanted to bring hope, and we wanted to bring joy to them. And so we we flew him down to Cuba. And we took him from church to church, the ministry, the ministry, so that they could interact with other pastors, and they could hear what was happening to Cuba because guys look in Cuba, a pastor gets paid 20 to \$25 a month in American dollars. You might go, Well, man, that doesn't seem fair. Yeah. But an oncologist gets paid like \$37 a month. So it's the communist government at work. And you might go, Okay, well, that's cool, man, if everything's like a penny, or 50 cents, but that's not the way it is because a carton of eggs cost \$4. So, you know, their money doesn't go very far. And they get these books from the communist government, that they can take these rations, and they can take them in to the store houses, and then they can pay for the rations. The coupon just allows them to pay for the rations at the government rate, which is how they

all survive in Cuba, the government dependency upon the government to survive. And so they're very much under oppression. And so we ended up showing up at this first church and we get a chance to preach. It's Sunday morning, and I got five pastors, and the pastor, the Cuban church asked for a miracle. He was like, Hey, you think all five pastors could like preach these little mini messages, and they can all fit like, within this particular timeframe? I go, nope. But it happened. It happened. A miracle took place in Cuba, all five pastors preached, and we all fit inside of our window of time, I could not believe it. It was the first miracle we experienced in Cuba. Right, but at the end of the service, the pastor's up there and he was like, Man, this is awesome service. We prayed for people. It was a blast. But he's casting this vision to the congregation. He's saying to them, Hey, guys, we got this large outreach coming next month, and we've got to find \$250 to buy pork, so that the people of the town can come and we can feed the people of the town. \$250. Now, look, remember, the pastor gets paid 20 to \$25. So we're talking a lot of money here. \$250 for pork and the missionary leans over to me goes, I think this would be a great thing, man for Kingdom builders to invest into. And I go, I think you're right. And I open up like the Kingdom Builder treasure box, called my backpack, in a nice little bank envelope. And I opened it up and I'm like, I go here, Danny, here's 250 bucks. And Danny interrupts the pastor, Pastor, here's the money for the pork, and the church erupts. And they're like, Yes, this is exciting. And the Danny leans over to me, and he's like, Yeah, but that only feeds the people that are coming for the outreach. The people the church weren't going to eat at all. And I'm like, oh, yeah, well, now they are given \$250 I said, give him the 250 and tell him the church's eating too. And the pastor gets up and he goes, and we get to eat too. And it was this joy man, we saw breakthrough. We brought hope Joy was brought to the city, something that seemed insurmountable was possible because the power of the other which is by the way, you you, we are Kingdom builders at New Life. That's who we are as a church. That's what you did. But it didn't stop there. Now we went to a house church. You many churches in Cuba house churches. And so the picture you're looking at right behind him that open door that goes into like a large living room, like a living room size, like you would have in many of your homes, and that's where they hold the service and the back behind that you go through a kitchen, which goes to their bedroom that they use for the youth room, and then it goes to, which I didn't think was very smart, but hey, so I went so the youth room and then it goes to the back room. which they use for the kids auditorium. Okay. And so the whole place gets packed out every Sunday. And the pastor's just excited that were there. They were all there praying that morning, the leadership team, and we come in, and it is a small area. They've got no fans, okay, one fan on the wall, excuse me. And typically they put like three or four fans on the wall, and they're oscillating, and they're blowing. But this year, it's had one and it was broke, right? It was depressing. But the church was full every Sunday, and the pastor showed us the numbers, and he was excited. He's like, I want to buy this land over there. And he's probably thinking to himself, these Americans are here, I'm going to cast the vision, I need to buy the land, the land is 20 or \$30,000. Guys, I don't remember. Can you imagine buying a plot of land that's 20 or \$30,000, when all you make is \$20 a month. But he's got the vision for that. And so I turn it around on him. And I go, have you ever thought crazy thought? Have you ever thought about having multiple services in this place right here? He's kind of like, well, I thought about it. I said, You should do it. You do it tomorrow, start running multiple services. And so we start talking about it. And you can kind of see the light comes on. And he's like, Man, that's a great idea. Go Yeah, before you ever buy the land, like do that. Do that. And so then I said, Look, if you if you guys will start planning a second service, I want to do something for you. There's no fans in here and it is smokin hot in this room. Is this the way it is on Sunday? And one of the ladies goes, Nope, it's worse. And I was like, Okay, well, how much the fans cost? I'm thinking like, \$25 apiece, they're like \$80 apiece. \$80 apiece, people for an oscillating fan. Okay, when you make \$20 a month, you're not buying that fan. So what did we do? We were like, at 8080. There's one wall at 8080. There's the other wall. And we were like, boom, man, we just gave it to him. We were like, fans are going in this place. People are gonna feel cool, people are cool, then people are gonna hear the message and people hear the message, you're gonna go tell their friends, their friends are gonna come fill up that second service. We're in this with you, we want to see a breakthrough for you. And hope filled the place. joy filled the place. That worship leader got up on the keyboard, he's playing the keyboard, I get on one of the instruments and I'm keeping really bad beat on it. I mean, it was just like, joy filled the place, guys. You want one more story. Teen Challenge. Teen Challenge is the is the center where they help men get off of drugs and alcohol. And it's a beautiful place. They got a beautiful compound, a facility where the men live and the and the leaders live there.

The leaders have led this ministry for the last 14 years, they got fruit trees all over the place. And they got a little fruit stand out front and one in the Yvonne. Okay, that's the leaders. And they were sharing their testimony with us and we're all crying. It's powerful. But I asked them at a certain point, I just said, How much do you guys make? And they said we make \$20 a month? That's what Teen Challenge gives us the run this place? How much does Teen Challenge give you to like feed all the men that are here \$120 To run the whole program for the entire month. 120 American dollars, I go how far does that go? They go. It makes it about through halfway through the month, I get where do you get the rest of the money? Well, we take all the fruit from these fruit trees. And we have a little stand out front and right out right up front of their building. There's railroad tracks, it's perfect. Why? Because every car and truck has to stop at the railroad tracks which is right in front of their business. Genius, right? Somebody stops and they look in there. Like I want to buy that fruit. It looks delicious. And so anyways, I go but yeah, but it's not even open. They go. Oh, yeah, yeah, that's right, because a communist government sent one of their accountants over to look through all of their books, not our books, their books, or what they think we should sell based on past history. And they said that we owed them 400 400 American dollars. And until we pay the 400 American dollars, we can't reopen the fruit stand. And so I'm starting to get angry like Saul started to get angry. Like inside of me, I'm starting to like, that's not right, let's go talk to the communist government. Right? They'll just kick me out of the country and be fine like, and something just start wheeling up with me. But before I can even act on all of that. Danny, the missionary asked him he goes how long you guys lead this thing they will 14 years then he said, hey, when was the last time you guys said like a day like a weekend away or a vacation. They go we haven't taken one in 14 years. And then my anger moved to compassion. And I reached down into our Kingdom Builder dollars. And I pulled out 2000 American dollars. And I took 1000 of those and I slap them on the table in front of them and I go I don't agree with that communist government. But you're paying your debt off today. And you're reopening that store and we're going to start selling fruit again and we're going to start taking care of what we need to take care of here. And they were just like tears coming down their face. I got the other \$600 Do whatever you need to in this place. You guys are leaving it well and we want to invest into it. So you know go get whatever you need to have a special party do whatever you want to do for the residents that are here like this keep leading well. They're bawling, they're crying, and I take another \$1,000 And I slap it down on the table because guys, you gotta realize tourists actually go to Cuba from other countries. So hotels and certain restaurants and tourist areas get quite expensive, okay. And so I slept into the \$1,000 of our Kingdom Builder money down on the table. And I said, and by the way, I want you guys to get away for a week or so I don't want you to have a vacation. And we from new life and our kingdom builders, we want to invest into you, Pastor so that you can keep investing into others. We don't want you to burn out, we want to encourage you today, we're people of hope, and we're bringing joy to the city today. And tears flew down their face, and we hugged them. And Danny, our missionary, he's very emotional, and he just starts crying. He's like, Pastor, you change their life. Guys, that's the power of the other. That's what we did together. We did that together. We brought hope and we brought joy. That's what we did. And and we impacted the five pastors that we brought from Nebraska, take a listen to their their testimonial video of how you impacted them by investing into their life.

Thank you Kingdom builders, for my experience on the Cuba go trip, it has definitely expanded my view of what it takes to build the kingdom around the world

impacted me and it will impact my church in a profound way. So thank you so much. God bless you guys.

It was a tremendous blessing. And words just cannot express how much I'm grateful. So thank you. Thank you.

Thank you so much. God bless all you guys.

It has been such a blessing. It's also just caused reignite reignited passion for missions inside of my heart to bring back here to you. And thank you,

you know, we talk about faith. But faith is like a muscle that we use. And seeing the pastor's in Cuba, in many ways, just completely live by faith challenged me to exercise that muscle in my own life. So I want to thank you again, to everyone who made this trip possible.

You guys use the power of the other at work. And you brought hope and joy. You increased faith. Right? I mean, you guys have flown on a commercial flight lately. flown a commercial flight lately? Well, what's the very first thing you did when you landed? I think the Lord dropped your knees that you just celebrated back in Nebraska, or whatever it was? No, the very first thing you did was you turned your cell phone on? That's very first thing you did.

And what happened with your cell phone when you turned it on? It started doing something? It said up in the upper corner started saying this like searching, searching, searching, searching. Right? And what was it searching for a network. And when it found the network it connected. And then all of a sudden you could start getting calls and, and sending calls and you weren't isolated in the morning. Now you were reconnected again. This is what needs to happen for all of us. First, we have to be connected to the kingdom of God. And then secondly, we have to be connected to one another. And that's the way God designed us. God designed us to be those people. So what I want you to do is I just want you didn't know today that if you're in need, if you're in need of a breakthrough, your breakthrough could come this morning. Okay, but it might it might come differently than you thought it might come through the prayer of another, it might come through the encouraging word of another might come from a friendship that starts being built right here right now because this is the principle that we know to be true. And second Corinthians chapter one, verse four says this, that he being God, He comforts us in our troubles so that we can comfort others so we can help others see a spiritual breakthrough. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us so today if you feel like you're one of the people caught in Jay bash, and the enemy surrounded you, and you're in you're feeling like hope is draining from your life. And you're feeling faith being drained from your life and joy being drained from your life and and you're being you're trying to settle for something less than what God wants for you. I want you to know it all of our campuses, the altars are for the hungry, and I want you to come to the altars during our worship time. And I want you to stand or kneel and pray and seek the Lord and if you do come to the altar, somebody else the power of the other is going to come alongside you and they're going to put hands on here on your back and they're going to pray for you or they're gonna get in front of you in they're gonna grab your hands and they're gonna pray for you. And we're gonna believe God for a breakthrough today. God who is the one who brings the breakthrough will bring the breakthrough maybe even today through the Power of the other, why don't you stand with me and let's pray. So Father today, today, we are thankful. We're thankful God, so thankful that you put us here on this earth. And you fill us with the authority of Christ and the power of your Holy Spirit. And that through our lives, Lord, as we pray for one another, as we become friends with one another, that there's something about our presence in one another's lives that brings a breakthrough. And then there's also something about our words shared with one another, that brings a breakthrough and God, we're thankful for that. And so Lord, we ask that in Jesus name, you would move mightily, and you would move in power, and you would move in authority here at New Life church today, and you would bring breakthrough and freedom to the lives of people as we seek you. And as we sing, and as we praise you, and for those that are bold enough to come, Lord, they will find a group of people from New Life, one or two people that will gather with them and pray with them and through the power of the others prayer. Lord, would you bring spiritual breakthrough in this house in Jesus name, and everybody said, Amen.

## **BREAKTHROUGH, Week 4: "Others"**

### Small Group Guide

#### **Ice Breaker: "Two Truths and a Lie"**

**Objective:** To help group members get to know each other and have a bit of fun.

**Instructions:**

1. Ask each participant to come up with two true statements about themselves and one false statement.
2. Have each person take turns sharing their three statements with the group, without revealing which one is false.
3. After sharing, the rest of the group can discuss and guess which statement is the lie.
4. Once everyone has guessed, the person can reveal which statement was false.
5. Continue until everyone in the group has shared.

This ice breaker encourages participants to share interesting facts about themselves and provides an opportunity for laughter and conversation as they try to figure out the lie. It's a great way to break the ice and learn more about each other.

#### **Introduction:** Understanding the Need for Breakthroughs

**Read Ephesians 4:16 (NLT):** "16 He [Jesus] makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How does this verse illustrate the concept of individuals working together to help the whole body grow?
2. What does it mean to you that Jesus designed us to fit perfectly together?
3. Share an example of a time when someone's help or presence in your life led to personal growth or a breakthrough.

#### **Overcoming the Feeling of Inadequacy**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Have you ever felt unqualified to help others because of your own issues or failures?
2. What are some common reasons people feel unqualified to assist others in their breakthroughs?
3. How can we overcome feelings of inadequacy to recognize our potential to help others?

#### **The Power of Encouragement**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Share a personal story of how someone's encouraging words made a significant impact on your life.
2. How does encouragement relate to helping others find breakthroughs?

3. How can we be more intentional about offering words of encouragement to those around us?

## The Story of Jabesh

**Read 1 Samuel 11:1-9 (NLT):** Nahash[a] the Ammonite went up and besieged Jabesh Gilead. And all the men of Jabesh said to him, "Make a treaty with us, and we will be subject to you."

2 But Nahash the Ammonite replied, "I will make a treaty with you only on the condition that I gouge out the right eye of every one of you and so bring disgrace on all Israel."

3 The elders of Jabesh said to him, "Give us seven days so we can send messengers throughout Israel; if no one comes to rescue us, we will surrender to you."

4 When the messengers came to Gibeah of Saul and reported these terms to the people, they all wept aloud. 5 Just then Saul was returning from the fields, behind his oxen, and he asked, "What is wrong with everyone? Why are they weeping?" Then they repeated to him what the men of Jabesh had said.

6 When Saul heard their words, the Spirit of God came powerfully upon him, and he burned with anger. 7 He took a pair of oxen, cut them into pieces, and sent the pieces by messengers throughout Israel, proclaiming, "This is what will be done to the oxen of anyone who does not follow Saul and Samuel." Then the terror of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out together as one. 8 When Saul mustered them at Bezek, the men of Israel numbered three hundred thousand and those of Judah thirty thousand.

9 They told the messengers who had come, "Say to the men of Jabesh Gilead, 'By the time the sun is hot tomorrow, you will be rescued.'" When the messengers went and reported this to the men of Jabesh, they were elated.

### Discussion Questions:

1. In 1 Samuel 11, the people of Jabesh were in a dire situation. How did their actions change when they received a message of hope and vision?
2. What can we learn from Jabesh's story about responding to difficult circumstances?
3. How does the story of Jabesh relate to our lives when we feel stuck or need a breakthrough?

## The Impact of Kingdom Builders

### Discussion Questions:

1. Discuss the acts of kindness and generosity described in the sermon regarding the Kingdom Builders' efforts in Cuba. How did these actions impact the recipients?
2. Share any personal experiences of participating in or witnessing similar initiatives that brought joy or breakthrough to others.
3. How can our Life Group collectively engage in acts of kindness and generosity within your community?

## Conclusion: The Power of Connection

**Discussion Questions:** Reflect on the importance of staying connected with God, as mentioned in the sermon.

1. Why is it crucial to stay connected with others, especially in times of need or when helping others find breakthroughs?
2. Share an experience when you received comfort from God during a challenging time. How can you use that experience to comfort others, as mentioned in 2 Corinthians 1:4?



## Challenge and Prayer

**Challenge:** If anyone in the group feels like the people of Jabesh, surrounded by difficulties and in need of a breakthrough, encourage them to share so the group can pray for them.. Emphasize the potential to meet with someone who can help them on their journey.

**Prayer:** Close the discussion with a prayer, asking for wisdom and guidance in helping one another experience breakthroughs.

Encourage group members to stay connected throughout the week, supporting each other in their respective journeys.