



40 *days of*  
BREAKTHROUGH

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## **Closing Letter**

# We are so glad you are joining us for our 40 Days of Breakthrough!

The next six weeks are going to be transformational as you seek the presence of God and the Word of God alongside the people of God. We pray that the work He does in us changes the world around us – from our families to our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our city and beyond!

In order to get the most out of these 40 days, we encourage you to jump in with us in three ways:

**Corporately** – Our sermons each Sunday will introduce a new area of breakthrough we're believing for. You will be envisioned for receiving breakthrough in your life.

**Life Groups** – Each week, our life group communities will watch a video together with further equipping on these areas of breakthrough and will help you work through the practical application alongside fellow believers.

**Personally** – This booklet contains helpful devotionals for your personal time with God. Take two mornings each week to read, take notes and listen to the Holy Spirit as you believe for breakthrough in your life. From the devotions and Scripture memory to the Freedom Day, these weekly challenges will thrust you to deeper places in God.

**This booklet provides you with a few things for each week of the series.**

- Pages to take notes during the Sunday sermon
- A weekly memory verse (*We will memorize these together as a whole church.*)
- Two devotionals to use as part of your daily time with God
- Fill-in-the-blank notes to use during the video at your life group
- Pages to journal

As a part of this series, we also encourage you to read the book *Wholehearted* by Rick and Diane Bewsher. This is a great resource to help you form the habits that cultivate breakthrough – building intimacy with Jesus, hearing His voice and receiving His truth. We also invite you to attend Freedom Day on April 25th. This day is meant to give you tools and weapons to continue walking in freedom with teachings led by several of our leaders and powerful times of worship and ministry.

Thank you for being a part of these 40 Days of Breakthrough. We pray that you personally encounter God in a fresh way, come alive in His Word, find community with His people and experience breakthrough in every area of your life by His power!

Lead Pastor

Chris Mirabito



**We are challenging everyone to read this book over the next 40 days. You can order a copy on Amazon or purchase it in our Bookstore at the church.**

Week One:

# Relationship with God

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**Let us then approach God's throne of  
grace with confidence, so that we may  
receive mercy and find grace to help us  
in our time of need.**

*Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)*





# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *No Longer Slaves* by Bethel Music. Then take a moment to thank God that you are His child.

*“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Have you ever been intimidated to approach someone? Maybe it was because they were famous or wealthy or powerful or beautiful. And you were just...you. All of your flaws and shortcomings were screaming, “They won’t be impressed with you! They won’t value you! They won’t find you attractive!” And you decided to shrink back because somehow, you were convinced you didn’t deserve to approach them.

Sometimes, we view our relationship with God in this way – intimidated to approach Him because of His greatness, His power, His holiness. But Hebrews 4 describes Jesus as our great High Priest, our God who became like us in order to empathize with our weaknesses, and still sits on a throne waiting for us to come to Him. But this is a throne of grace that we should approach with confidence. We don’t have to be ashamed or afraid. We shouldn’t be timid because He who sits on the throne of grace understands us. He wants us to approach Him. He desires to put value on us, speak identity over us and help us.

From His throne, we receive mercy and find grace in our time of need. We receive mercy when God does not give us what we deserve (Romans 6 says the penalty for our sin is death). We find grace when God gives us what we don’t deserve – His unmerited favor, blessing and power to live in His ways.

Even though He is the Creator of the world, ruling in power and set apart in holiness, He is accessible to us – to you – just as you are. Just you. Don’t allow negative self talk or labels from the world around you to keep you from approaching God’s throne of grace today.

**Take a moment to reflect on this Scripture and journal your thoughts on the following questions. Then pray those things back to God.**

- **What stood out to you in this devotional?**
- **What do you sense God is speaking to you through it?**
- **How can you respond today?**



# Life Group Fill-in-the-Blank

Breakthrough: a sudden, \_\_\_\_\_ and important \_\_\_\_\_.

We often find ourselves stuck and believe that our lot in life \_\_\_\_\_  
is our lot in life \_\_\_\_\_.

Hebrews 11:6 (CSB) "Now without \_\_\_\_\_ it is impossible to please God,  
since the one who draws near to Him must \_\_\_\_\_ that He exists and  
that He \_\_\_\_\_ those who seek Him."

When asked to identify negative or painful words that come to mind  
about oneself, most people often answer the same thing: \_\_\_\_\_.

Romans 12:2 (NLT) "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God  
\_\_\_\_\_ you into a new person by changing the way you  
\_\_\_\_\_. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is  
\_\_\_\_\_ and pleasing and perfect."

My perception of Jesus either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ my  
ability to hear God and feel connected to God.

**"What comes into our minds when we think  
about God is the most important thing  
about us."**

- A.W. Tozer

Matthew 16:17-18 (GNT) "Good for you, Simon son of John!" answered Jesus. "For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you \_\_\_\_\_ by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter; you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it."

"\_\_\_\_\_ is simply the belief that we are not enough."

- Dr. Kelly Flanagan, author of *Lovable*

Three Spiritual Breakthrough Questions:

1. Is there any \_\_\_\_\_ sin in my life?
2. Is there any bitterness or \_\_\_\_\_ between me and another?
3. Am I \_\_\_\_\_ my time with God?

"If we have become accustomed to a \_\_\_\_\_ and have allowed it to determine something about our identity or \_\_\_\_\_, we can end up taking on the message of that lie as a \_\_\_\_\_ identity."

-*Wholehearted* by Rick and Diane Bewsher

Two Final Takeaways:

1. Proverbs 8:34 (ESV) "Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching \_\_\_\_\_ at my gates, waiting beside my doors."
2. James 1:25 (NIV) "But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it, not \_\_\_\_\_ what they have heard, but \_\_\_\_\_ it, they will be blessed in what they do."

# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Arms of My Father* by Antioch Music. Take a moment to thank God that He is not far away, and you have direct access to Him today.

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits...”*

Psalm 103:1-2 (KJV)

In the wake of national tragedy, after the September 11th attacks, an expression reemerged: never forget. The slogan is used to commemorate those who lost their lives and inspires us to live our lives in a way that would honor them and uphold our foundational values.

In Psalm 103, David is telling himself the same thing: never forget! Always remember who God is and what He has done! He goes on throughout the chapter to make a list of God’s character traits and deeds, saying over and over, “Bless the Lord!” Each note David makes about God proves that He is worthy of David’s worship – and of ours.

**Today, take time to make your own list. Think about how He has forgiven you, healed you, redeemed you, blessed you and provided for you. Then write out those specific moments, what you received, how you came to understand God’s character and how your life is different because God chose to intervene. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see and remember. Forget not all His benefits.**

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If you are a follower of Jesus, end your time with God by taking communion: a simple piece of bread or cracker with some juice, just you and the Lord. We are instructed to take communion as an act of remembering Jesus' death; His sacrifice that would cleanse and redeem us. Jesus paid the ultimate price so we could be restored back to relationship with God – an act worth remembering. As you take the bread and the cup, pause before the Lord and thank Him for His sacrifice.

Thank Him that you get to participate in His resurrection life. Thank Him because He provides for you and sustains you each day.

*“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

1Corinthians 11:23-26 (ESV)

Week Two:

# Sin

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.**

*Romans 6:6 (ESV)*





# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Who You Say I Am* by Hillsong Worship. Then take a moment to thank God that you are His child.

*“We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”*

Romans 6:6 (ESV)

People love a good makeover story. For years, reality TV has made season after season of shows that help people go from “blah” to “wow!” Our jaws drop to the floor when the old, ragged man shaves his beard, gets an updated wardrobe and has his teeth whitened. He looks like a completely different person! We cheer from our couches when the hard-working mom of four is revealed with a cute new hairstyle, flattering dress and flawless makeup. She looks nothing like she did before!

What is it that draws us into these kinds of stories and makes us celebrate this kind of makeover? Maybe we’re all made for one. But not like those you see on television.

As we see in Romans 6, God is not interested in updating your look, but in giving you an entirely new identity. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” If you choose Christ, you actually get rid of who you used to be and become someone brand new.

Read the list of declarations below out loud. Write down a few on post-it notes and put them on your bathroom mirror or the dashboard of your car to meditate on this week.

I AM ACCEPTED:

I am God’s child. *John 1:12*

I am Christ’s friend. *John 15:15*

I am a member of Christ’s Body. *1 Corinthians 12:27*

I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. *Colossians 1:14*

I am complete in Christ. *Colossians 2:10*

**I AM SECURE:**

I am free forever from condemnation. *Romans 8:1-2*

I am assured that all things work together for good. *Romans 8:28*

I cannot be separated from the love of God. *Romans 8:35*

I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected.

*Philippians 1:6*

I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.

*2 Timothy 1:7*

**I AM SIGNIFICANT:**

I am the salt and light of the earth. *Matthew 5:13-14*

I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life. *John 15:1, 5*

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. *John 15:16*

I am God's workmanship. *Ephesians 2:10*

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. *Philippians 4:13*

\*Adapted from *Victory Over the Darkness* by Neil T. Anderson

**Take a moment to reflect on these Scriptures and journal your thoughts on the following questions.**

- What is one area in your life that you are living differently than these truths?**
- What do you sense God is speaking to you about that area?**
- Pray those Scriptures back to God; thanking Him that they are real for your life today.**

# Journal Pages

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# Life Group Fill-in-the-Blank

Romans 7:18-19 (NIV) “For I have the desire to do what is \_\_\_\_\_, but I can- not carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the \_\_\_\_\_ I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.”

Two Truths:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ it what it is
2. \_\_\_\_\_ it

Romans 5:12 (ESV) “Therefore just as sin came into the world through \_\_\_\_\_ man, and \_\_\_\_\_ through sin and so death spread to \_\_\_\_\_ men because all sinned.”

Romans 5:19 (ESV) “For as by one man’s \_\_\_\_\_ the many were made sinners, so by one man’s \_\_\_\_\_ the many will be made righteous.”

2 Peter 1:4 (ESV) “...you may become partakers of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.”

Romans 6:11 (NIV) “In the same way, count yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ to sin but \_\_\_\_\_ to God, in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 7:20 (NIV) “Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.”

Romans 7:20 (TPT) “So if my behavior contradicts my desires to do good, I must conclude that it’s not my true doing it, but the unwelcome \_\_\_\_\_ of sin hindering me from being who I really am.”

# The great deception: we are just sinners saved by grace.

Four practicals that make it hard for sin to win:

1. Give people \_\_\_\_\_
2. Don't be \_\_\_\_\_
3. Stop \_\_\_\_\_ others
4. Back to \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 6:14 (NIV) "For sin shall no longer be your \_\_\_\_\_ , because you are not under the law, but under \_\_\_\_\_ ."

# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Heart of God* by Hillsong Worship. Then take a moment to thank God that His mercies are new for you this morning.

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...”*

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

It’s hard to run fast and straight when you’re carrying a lot. You’re too distracted by the items in your arms, packed on your back or being pulled behind you. They slow you down. And that’s what the author of Hebrews is trying to tell us. He’s saying, “Drop that stuff! It’s slowing you down. It’s distracting you from the race you have to run. Focus on Jesus; He’s all you need.”

What are some of the things that are hindering you from running your race? Is there a sin – small or large – that is entangling you while you try to run? Is there unfor- giveness or bitterness you’re holding onto? Take some time today to let the Holy Spirit search you and speak to you about things you might be carrying. Ask Him to help you throw those things off.

Write those things here:

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Next, the scripture calls you to run with your eyes fixed on Jesus. He has marked a path for you to follow and is leading you every step of the way. If you take your eyes off of Him, you could stray from the path and lose pace. But if you keep your eyes focused on Jesus – who He is, what He says about you and what He is doing with you and for you in this very moment – you will run the race with endurance and joy.

**Colossians 1:15-20 is a great passage that focuses on Jesus. As you wrap up your time with God, take time to write out that passage in your journal and then answer the following questions. At the end, pray the crafted prayer back to God.**

- What about Jesus stood out to you in this passage?**
- How does this revelation affect the way you live today?**
- Repent for the things you “threw off” and thank God for who He is for you today.**

**“Jesus, thank You for being the pioneer and the perfecter of my faith. As Your word says, You are the visible image of the invisible God, and the fullness of God dwells in You. I choose to fix my eyes on You today, Jesus. I want to run my race with perseverance. Help me to see the path that You have set before me. Help me to throw off the sin and the weight that so easily tangles me. Help me to keep the attention of my mind and the affection of my heart on You today. I repent for trying to run with the sins that so easily entangles. I choose to trust You today and I choose to obey You today. It is in You, Jesus, that all things were created and that all things hold together. Your word says that You go before me and that gives me great hope and strength. I trust You Jesus, Amen”**



**APRIL 25TH • 9AM - 5PM**  
**For more info, visit [antiochfc.org/events](http://antiochfc.org/events)**



Week Three:

# Emotions

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**Why, my soul, are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me? Put your  
hope in God, for I will yet praise Him,  
my Savior and my God.**

*Psalm 43:5 (NIV)*

# **Sermon Notes**

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# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Unchanging* by Antioch Music. Then take a moment to thank God for His faithfulness to you today.

*“Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.”*

Psalms 43:5 (NIV)

If you're a parent, you know even little kids have big emotions. Serving them cereal in the wrong color bowl can send them to the floor wailing for the next 20 minutes. It's easy to brush it off and think, "Are you out of your mind?! It's a cereal bowl.

Just eat your breakfast!" But there's some comfort in knowing – hoping – that one day, our little kids will grow into adults who know how to handle their emotions and refuse to throw tantrums in the middle of Target.

Even as adults, our emotions feel very real and can be quite valid. It's what we do with those emotions that affects our lives and the lives of those around us. David frequently expressed his emotions throughout the Psalms; from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. But David sets an example for us in this: though he was raw with God, telling Him exactly how he was feeling, he did not allow his emotions to have the final word. David asked God to lead Him in truth, back to reality, every time. His life may have felt like it had been tossed by the waves, but he remained anchored in God's steadfast love and great faithfulness.

David proves to us that our emotions are not to be ignored, but they're not good leaders either. We can take them to God, ask for His help navigating the why and what beneath the surface and then land safely in His goodness. And at the end of the day, we can commit, just as David did, to praising God despite our circumstances and emotions.

**Revisit the second devotion of Week One (pg. 13). Read over what you wrote that morning. This is how we “put our hope in God.” We recall His faithfulness and discipline ourselves to be thankful. Wrap up your time this morning by spending some time putting your hope in God and recalling how He has been good to you.**



# Life Group Fill-in-the-Blank

We will all be tempted to either \_\_\_\_\_ our emotions or \_\_\_\_\_ to them, and neither are healthy.

\_\_\_\_\_ pressures reveal \_\_\_\_\_ realities.

John 15:5-6 (NIV) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you \_\_\_\_\_ in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in Me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and \_\_\_\_\_."

John 15:9,11 (NIV) "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love... I have told you this so that My \_\_\_\_\_ may be in you and that your joy may be \_\_\_\_\_."

Two areas that could hinder emotional breakthrough:

1. Our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Our \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't work!

Psalms 32:3 (NCV) "When I kept things to \_\_\_\_\_, I felt weak deep inside me. I \_\_\_\_\_ all day long."

Three ways to approach our past:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ what happened to those you trust.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ those who hurt you.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ the cleansing of the Holy Spirit.

In the end, we do not need to be an emotionally-centered people; we want to be a \_\_\_\_\_-centered people.

# **Father, what do You have for me in place of this pain, this wound, this unforgiveness?**

You cannot continue to increase your life's \_\_\_\_\_ while simultaneously maintaining your souls \_\_\_\_\_ .

Three questions to evaluate:

1. Is there any spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ I need to add to my life in order to anchor my soul?
2. Am I getting the physical \_\_\_\_\_ I need to keep up with the demands on my life?
3. Are there any \_\_\_\_\_ I need to create – any boundaries I need to set in order to sustain the intensity of my life?

Psalms 55:22 (ESV) “Cast your burden on the Lord, and He will \_\_\_\_\_ you.”

# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *King of My Heart* by Bethel Music. Then take a moment to thank God for a few specific ways you've experienced His goodness this week.

*"In your anger do not sin: do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."*

Ephesians 4:26-27 (NIV)

When my car needs an oil change or more gas in the tank, a light appears on my dash- board. That light is an external indicator (something I can see) of an internal reality (something I cannot see). I am thankful for these indicators because otherwise I would kill my engine or be stranded somewhere on the side of the road!

Our emotions operate for us much the same way – they're indicators of what is happening internally. Out of His kindness, God gives us emotion and allows us to FEEL in our human experience. It's our responsibility to take those emotions back to God, who knows us and created us, and ask Him to help us respond to them the way He designed and expects us to. If I don't know what a light on my dashboard means, I look in the manual. In the same way, if I'm confused or overwhelmed by an emotion, I should go to God and look in His manual – the Bible.

The caution expressed in Ephesians 4:26 can apply to any emotion, not just anger. In your anxiety, do not sin. In your discouragement, do not sin. In your fear, do not sin. Respond God's way: forgive as you've been forgiven (Ephesians 4:32). Receive peace that surpasses understanding (Philippians 4:7). Know your identity as a beloved, secure child of God (John 1:12). Access power, love and self-control through the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1:7).

**As an exercise today, practice taking your emotions to God. Think about one particular emotion you have felt this week and ask the following questions. Write down what you sense God saying.**

1. God, how is this emotion indicating my internal reality?
2. How would You like me to respond to this emotion now?
3. Will You help me to respond in Your way?
4. Are there any other emotions I feel related to this reality?

*(Repeat 1-3 for each emotion).*





Week Four:

# Relationships

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**Above all, love each other deeply,  
because love covers a multitude of sins.**

*1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)*



# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *What a Friend I've Found* by Delirious?. Then take a moment to thank God for His friendship with you.

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.”

1 Peter 4:8 (NIV)

There was once a human experiment where 12 individuals from a variety of back- grounds were sent to a string of remote islands in Southeast Asia with scattered resources. The only way to leave the islands was to persevere long enough to be rescued – or to quit. Participants were dropped off in 12 separate locations and forced to survive – either alone or with others they found. Some of the participants chose to go at it alone, even after locating other people. Some admitted they had issues with trusting others, especially a stranger. Others had bad experiences working with others on a team.

Have you ever been in a complicated relationship and thought, “Nevermind. I’m probably better off by myself?” Though this experiment was fascinating, one doesn’t even have to know the outcome to understand there is a strong human need for companionship. God Himself designed us to live with others in community.

But guess what – pretty much since Genesis 3, people have struggled to live with one another within God’s original design. The authors of the New Testament gave countless instructions to the early churches regarding how to cultivate relationships that honor God – from husbands and wives, to parents and children, to sisters and brothers and every kind of friend in between. Peter sums it up in the simplest way in 1 Peter 4:8, and John expounds on this instruction in 1 John 4:7-8, 11-12.

*“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ... Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”*

**Is there someone in your life that is hard to love? Ask God to reveal Himself again today – AS LOVE – and to help you love that person as He has loved you. Take a moment to journal your answers to the following questions.**

- Who is someone in my life that is hard to love?**
- What does God think about that person?**
- Stop and pray for that person.**

*Bonus: Send that person an encouraging text today sharing what God spoke to you about how He sees them.*

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# Life Group Fill-in-the-Blank

Lesson #1: Simple rarely comes \_\_\_\_\_!

For every relationship that seems flawless on the \_\_\_\_\_, there has been an \_\_\_\_\_ process underneath that is producing what you're seeing up top.

Lesson #2: If you handle relationships \_\_\_\_\_, the result is relational \_\_\_\_\_.

1 John 4:20-21 (NIV) "Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a \_\_\_\_\_. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this \_\_\_\_\_: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

Matthew 7:1-2 (NIV) "Do not \_\_\_\_\_, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Matthew 7:1 (TPT) "Refuse to be a \_\_\_\_\_ full of bias toward others, and judgment will not be passed on you."

This is about how I \_\_\_\_\_ you because that will set the stage for how I \_\_\_\_\_ to you.

The gap between the expectations I have and the reality I experience is a story I \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 7:3-4 (NIV) "Why do you look at the \_\_\_\_\_ of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?"

# **It will always be easier for you to see others' faults than it will be to see your own!**

Could it be that the chaos in \_\_\_\_\_ could be contributing to the breakdown between you and me?

Matthew 7:5 (NIV) "You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see \_\_\_\_\_ to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Restoration* by David Brymer. Then take a moment to thank God for how He has restored your life.

*“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ To the contrary, ‘if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

Romans 12:9-21 (ESV)

Here’s another example of some instructions the early church needed in the realm of relationships. Take some time to read the passage again, and circle words that stick out to you.

**Now make a list of up to ten relationships that are important to you. Look at the passage again and choose some of Paul’s instructions to apply to each of these relationships. Mentally insert their name into this passage. How can you practically honor one of the people on your list? How might you need to celebrate something great with a friend or mourn with a loved one who is going through a hard time? How could you help seek peace in a complex situation involving people you care about? How can you overcome evil with good this week?**

**Follow through on this list and watch how God brings breakthrough in your relationships!**

**To end your time with God, pray for all ten people by name.**





Week Five:

# Finances

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”**

*Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)*



# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *God of Miracles* by Chris McClarney. Then take a moment to thank God for how He has worked miracles in your life.

*“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”*

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

Josh and Jenny were spending Christmas with Jenny’s parents one year, and on Christmas morning, they realized things were going to be a little different than usual. Jenny’s parents had always been generous and great gift givers, but this year, each of their children got a gift that was over the top. First, her brother opened up a brand-new guitar – his dad had played every one in the store and found the perfect fit for his son who was developing a passion for music. Then Josh opened a huge television with all the latest and greatest features. Next, Jenny received a beautiful piece of furniture she had been wanting for their house. As a newly married couple, they only had random second-hand pieces to begin with, but now she had something she was proud of and would cherish for years to come. Finally, Jenny’s sister opened her gift – a new purse. She began thanking her parents, but then noticed a set of keys inside the purse. She shouted, “Are those keys? Did I get a car?!” Jenny’s sister had spent the last two years recovering from a major accident that left her with fifteen fractures in her face and bleeding in her brain. As she fought for her life, she also accumulated a mountain of medical bills. Her car was constantly breaking down and causing even more trouble for her. Every person in the room knew what it meant for Jenny’s sister to receive this new car.

Later that day, Josh asked Jenny if it bothered her that her sister got a car and she didn’t. Jenny was almost sick to her stomach – how could he ask such a question? She answered, “Of course it doesn’t bother me. I know my dad’s heart, and I know my sister’s journey, and we all just got these extravagant gifts that were perfect for each of us!”

In that moment, Jenny felt God speak to her, “Remember this moment, Jenny.” Contentment had become a reality in Jenny’s life, and she knew that it was a choice she’d have to make again and again. But that Christmas Day marked her journey with God forever. She realized contentment is not just trusting God to provide but trusting His heart to know exactly what she needs in every season.



# Life Group Fill-in-the-Blank

Three Laws of Balance:

1. There must be a \_\_\_\_\_ point.

Romans 11:36 *(NLT)* “For everything comes \_\_\_\_\_ Him and exists \_\_\_\_\_ His power and is intended \_\_\_\_\_ His glory. All glory \_\_\_\_\_ Him forever! Amen.”

2. There must be constant course \_\_\_\_\_ .

Proverbs 27:23-24 *(TLB)* “Riches can \_\_\_\_\_ fast so watch your business interests closely. Know the state of your flocks and your herds.”

3. There must be a \_\_\_\_\_ objective.

If your financial knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_ , make sure your kingdom convictions are \_\_\_\_\_ .

Luke 16:10 *(NIV)* “Whoever can be trusted with very \_\_\_\_\_ can also be trusted with \_\_\_\_\_ , and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”

Romans 13:8 *(ESV)* “Owe no one \_\_\_\_\_ , except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

Model for Change:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ for help.
2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_.

Malachi 3:10 (NIV) “Bring the whole \_\_\_\_\_ into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and \_\_\_\_\_ out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Hebrews 13:5 (NIV) “Keep your lives \_\_\_\_\_ from the love of money and be \_\_\_\_\_ with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

\_\_\_\_\_ always paves the way for breakthrough in every area.

Three Questions to Ask Yourself:

1. Am I \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. Am I \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. Am I committed to kingdom impact \_\_\_\_\_ - even when it hurts?

Basic Rules to Consider in Marriage:

- \_\_\_\_\_ your bank accounts.
- Don't \_\_\_\_\_ anything.
- Have a consistent money \_\_\_\_\_ .

Stewardship is the conducting, supervising or \_\_\_\_\_ of something.

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

# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *God of the Breakthrough* by Antioch Music. Then take a moment to thank God for areas you have already gotten breakthrough since we started the 40 Days of Breakthrough.

*“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

Matthew 6:19-21 (ESV)

Money can't buy happiness, right? There are a lot of people living like it can, though. And apparently, those people existed in Jesus' day, too. He warns them that the treasures they're accumulating will one day be worthless to them. Rather, Jesus tells them to store up treasures in Heaven. He tells us the same: invest in eternal things while you are here on earth.

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells a parable in which a man is preparing for a journey. In his absence, he entrusts his property to three of his servants. To one he gave five talents, to another two and to another one. The man who was given five talents went and made five more. The man with two talents went and also made two more. The man with one talent went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. When the master returned to settle accounts, to the five-talent man and two-talent man he said, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." But he was angry with the one-talent man and punished him, saying he should have invested what he was given, as the other two did.

God gives abundantly to us and makes us stewards of His riches. It is our responsibility to invest what we have been given in a way that has eternal significance. It is not the amount we are given, but what we will do with what we've been given. Don't waste your money on things that don't matter in God's kingdom – give extravagantly to that which will delight and honor God. And enter into the joy of your Master!





Week Six:  
**Calling**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

**For David, after he had served the  
purpose of God in his own generation,  
fell asleep...**

*Acts 13:36 (ESV)*



# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Yes and Amen* by Housefires. Review what you wrote in week one and three. Call to mind God's faithfulness to you again today and thank Him for it.

*"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep."*

Acts 13:36 (ESV)

As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up? Maybe you dreamed of becoming a doctor, an astronaut, a teacher, a chef or a professional athlete. Through the years, that dream may have changed, and you may have found you weren't cut out for that career for one reason or another. As we grow up, there's a great emphasis on "finding your calling" – this idea that there is one thing you were made to do. One thing you are expected to contribute to this planet in your lifetime. That can feel quite daunting... especially if you've reached adulthood and still aren't sure if you've found it.

Paul shares his process of finding his purpose in Galatians 1:15-16b (ESV), *"But when He who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son to me, in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles..."* Paul knew God had a purpose for his life, just as Jeremiah prophesied, *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart."* Jeremiah 29:11-13 (ESV)

It was in the revelation of Jesus that Paul received His calling, and it was by God's grace and power that he fulfilled that calling, claiming in 2 Timothy 4:7 (NIV), "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." There are many like Paul and David throughout the Scriptures who sought God through His presence and His Word to discover and fulfill their calling. Though finding your vocational calling can feel daunting, simply committing to daily time with God, asking for a greater revelation of Jesus, loving those around you and being a faithful steward with what God has entrusted to you can land you in the dead center of God's will for your life.

**Take a moment to journal the answers to the following questions.**

- What comes to mind when you think about God's calling for your life?
- Ask God how you can use your workplace or school to be a place of impact for His Kingdom.
- Ask God for a greater revelation of Him today as you go about your day to day.



# Life Group Fill-in-the-Blank

Don't allow an obsession with \_\_\_\_\_ or a tendency towards \_\_\_\_\_ to paralyze you from simply doing something!

Colossians 1:16 *(MSG)* "For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, ... everything got started in Him and finds its \_\_\_\_\_ in Him."

James 4:15 *(ESV)* "Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

Lesson #1: Without complete \_\_\_\_\_, there cannot be complete \_\_\_\_\_.

Proverbs 19:21 *(NIV)* "Many are the plans in a person's heart; but it is the Lord's purpose that \_\_\_\_\_."

James 4:8 *(ESV)* "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands you sinners, and purify your hearts you \_\_\_\_\_."

Lesson #2: If a deep base of \_\_\_\_\_ isn't established, your calling could kill you. Or you could kill your calling.

\_\_\_\_\_ % of Americans are NOT engaged in their work.

Colossians 3:23 *(NIV)* "Whatever you do, work at it with \_\_\_\_\_ your heart, as working for the \_\_\_\_\_, not for human masters."

James 1:4 *(NIV)* "Let perseverance \_\_\_\_\_ its work so that you may be mature and complete, not \_\_\_\_\_ anything."

Acts 9:15 *(ESV)* "...he is (you are) a chosen instrument of mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."

# Devotional

Start by worshipping to *Yes Lord* by Antioch Music. After the song, thank Him for any breakthrough – big or small – that you’ve seen in the past 40 days.

*“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you.”*

John 15:16 (NIV)

Many people spend their teens and twenties searching for their calling by searching for the perfect career. But Jesus teaches us that calling transcends career. He tells His disciples that calling is about fruit. He called them and purposed them to bear fruit that would last – and He calls and purposes us for the same.

Just like Jesus’ disciples, each of us operate with unique skills, personality and experiences that lend themselves to certain kinds of work. Your career is important, but don’t think that just because you go to work every day, you’re fulfilling God’s purposes in your life. Always be looking for opportunities to bear eternal, Kingdom fruit.

Calling is not necessarily about what we do, but who we are, who we are becoming and how we’re helping others know and follow Jesus. Is your character more like Christ’s character today than it was six months ago? Are the people you’re investing in growing in their relationship with God? In every season, we should be evaluating the fruit we’re seeing, internally and externally.

**In your journal, answer the following questions.**

**In this season:**

- **How is my relationship with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit?**
- **Who can I share the gospel with? (Romans 1:16)**
- **What fruit of the Spirit am I called to grow in? (Galatians 5:22-23)**
- **What am I called to study in the Bible? (2 Timothy 3:16-17)**
- **Who am I called to disciple? (2 Timothy 2:2)**
- **Who am I called to serve? (Philippians 2:3-4)**
- **Who am I called to pray for? (1 Timothy 2:1-3)**



# **We did it. Well, God did it!**

During this time, we tackled six areas in which we all need breakthrough to occur. However, many more areas will arise in which you need a “sudden, drastic and important advance.” Whether it’s the salvation of a friend, the finalization of an adoption process or a physical healing, life will continue to present its challenges. Yet, we pray that you now have the fuel needed to handle each one.

Throughout this 40-day challenge, our desire has been to give you the revelation, tools and relationships necessary to see your breakthrough sustained – and to see future breakthroughs in your life. As you’ve been attending Sunday services, participating in a life group and following along in your personal time with Jesus, we pray these three areas have become non-negotiables in your life. We encourage you to continue to commit to community!

Finally, we want to hear what God did in you and/or your group! Please email your testimony, however small or big, to [stories@antiochfc.org](mailto:stories@antiochfc.org)

We are so proud of you. Though this series is coming to a close, the breakthroughs are just beginning!

We love you, Antioch Fort Collins!

Lead Pastor

Chris Mirabito