

Searching for God's Glory

WEEK FOUR
Matthew 6 : 16-18



BREAKTHROUGH /brāk THroo/

A sudden dramatic and important development or discovery.

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.

Today's military has advanced beyond what many of us could have ever imagined. Laser guided missiles are one of those amazing advancements. They can hit a target with pinpoint accuracy and in many cases are a game changer. In other words, they provide strategic breakthroughs for our armed forces. How are they so accurate? When ground forces want to target an enemy's stronghold or strategic assets a special operations operator will "paint the target" with a laser, while simultaneously a stealth fighter or other air combat asset will drop a missile. That missile is guided to where the laser has been pointed. The payload of power drops from the heavens and the target is obliterated. Breakthrough!

Fasting is like "painting a target" and accessing the power of God leading to powerful spiritual breakthroughs. Paul said the weapons of our warfare aren't man made, they're mighty in God. Fasting is an asset in your arsenal, that, when coupled with prayer, unleashes the power of God and His will upon targets that you specifically identify. Don't settle for or tolerate a passive powerless Christian life any longer. Access the mighty power of God made available to you. Fast and pray.



WATCH

Play the video prepared for this lesson by Pastor Derek Neider. Video sessions are available for download at www.cclasvegas.org/GROUPS



PRAY (10 min)

As a Home Group, take a moment and share how God has been speaking to your heart about fasting and praying.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them together.

1. Pastor Derek mentioned biblical examples and admonitions of fasting and praying.

Put together a short list of Scripture verses that teach you to fast. Give at least one Biblical example of someone who fasted and prayed and experienced the power of God in a breakthrough.

Fasting is the nuclear weapon in your spiritual arsenal that will bring spiritual breakthroughs for the glory of God.



For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

2. There were 3 points given to guide you in developing a routine of fasting. The first point was to make a plan and prepare your heart.

Do that practically right now. Make a plan (how long will you fast, what will you fast from) and what Scriptures will you use to prepare your heart?

Fasting without praying isn't fasting, it's dieting or deprivation.

3. Identify a specific target for your prayer and fasting.

Where do you need a breakthrough?

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

MATTHEW 17:20-21

4. As you fast remember that God wants you to walk in righteousness. He wants you to address any areas of unrighteousness or injustice in your life and in the culture.

As you read Isaiah 58:6-9 what areas is God calling you to address?

"Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.'

ISAIAH 58:6-9



REACH

Considering what God revealed to you this week, take a step and fast! Expect God to do something amazing in His time and according to His plan.

Next week we will be anxiously waiting to hear about how God revealed His glory through fasting.

