

BIG IDEA

Breakthrough begins with the partnership between a praying people and a powerful Holy Spirit.

TIPS FOR LEADING DISCUSSION AND THE PRAYER TIME

1. For the opening thought, it may help for you to share your own story and reflection first to give everyone else time to respond.
2. If time allows, you may want to ask people where and how they'd like to see Breakthrough in their lives, the church, our community, and the world. Some ways our teaching team is talking about Breakthrough are our longings and dreams. We long to see addictions broken, marriages restored, and sicknesses healed. We dream of divisions falling, poverty ending, and justice winning the day.
3. Breakthrough happens when God's church is in prayer together. The refrain from the message is: "When people pray, God breaks through."
4. Breakthrough will also challenge all of us to grow in generosity above and beyond what we usually give over these next three years. When we look at the book of Acts, the gospel turned the world upside down politically, socially, culturally, and economically. We're praying and hoping for God to move in the same way.
5. Whenever we invite people to grow in generosity, there is almost always resistance. Don't feel like you have to smooth over every question or concern. Let your small group be a place where people can wrestle with the way they are being challenged to grow. If it is relevant and helpful, you can share your struggle with generosity and how you've grown to be more generous in the area of finances. Also, you may want to reassure people that the overall focus of Breakthrough is a Spiritual one. For instance, we will be asking people to pray and fast in January for 21 days.
6. Keep in mind that we are not asking you to take any commitments from anyone. We're not asking you to ask your group members to tithe, and we're not asking you to divulge any commitment you are making as a leader. What we are asking is for you to guide people through a time of prayer.
7. As you pray over each item listed in the guide, invite the group to a few moments of silence and then prompt them with each item on the prayer list giving everyone thirty seconds to one minute to pray silently. Depending on your group, you may want to have people voice audible prayers instead. Do what feels suitable for your specific group.
8. Close the group by thanking everyone for participating in the prayer time and encourage your members to stay open the Spirit and be praying for Breakthrough for themselves, the group, and our whole church.