

BIG IDEA

The Spirit brings breakthrough when we courageously step forward in faith.

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 1:3-7, Acts 21:10-13, Philippians 3:4b-6

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Icebreaker and Opening Thought: Use the icebreaker and opening thoughts to begin a conversation about fear.

BIBLE STUDY

Read the scriptures to discuss and gain a better understanding of how faith plays a role in how we encounter fear. Help the group think about what it might mean to live with power, not a power we are forcing, but power from the Holy Spirit. What might it look like to have self-discipline? How can we train for a life in the Spirit that will produce those kinds of results? Finally, love is what triumphs over fear. How can we be the kind of community that promotes love over fear in all we do?

LIFE APPLICATION

When people pray, God breaks through. He breaks through and begins to invite us to join him in moving the mission forward. He breaks through and calls us to trade our lives for Jesus and his mission. We might also look at Paul's life and realize we have a similar choice to make about what we give our lives to everyday. What do we value the most? Often, when we take a next step into the life of faith, it looks strange to those who don't share our perspective, and it can seem to them that we're getting carried away with religion. However, we can't let that perception or the fear of those judgments keep us from growing in our faith. When we embrace the life the Spirit wants to give us we can live without fear, and in its place we will find strength, power, and self-discipline.

CHALLENGE

God is using us to breakthrough into the lives of kids, students, and people far from him. He has given us a spirit of power, love, and self, and self-discipline to reach people in our neighborhoods and workplaces, through new church plants, and by planting churches in prisons through Community Freedom. Please continue to pray and seek after God, so that we might be a people who step more boldly into our faith to help more and more people find their way back to God.