BREAKTHROUGH

UNLEASHING GOD’S POWER INTO IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS

CHIP INGRAM
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How to Start Your Own Small Group

The fact that you are even reading this page says a lot about you. It says that you are either one of those people who has to read everything, or it says you are open to God using you to lead a group.

Leading a small group can sound intimidating, but it really doesn’t have to be. Think of it more as gathering a few friends to get to know each other better and to have some discussion around spiritual matters.

Here are a few practical tips to help you get started:

1. **Pray** – One of the most important principles of spiritual leadership is to realize you can’t do this on your own. No matter how long you’ve been a Christian or been involved in ministry, you need the power of the Holy Spirit. Lean on Him...He will help you.

2. **Invite some friends** – Don’t be afraid to ask people to come to your group. You will be surprised how many people are open to a study like this. Whether you have 4 or 14 in your group, it can be a powerful experience. You should probably plan on at least an hour and a half for your group meeting.

3. **Get your materials** – You will need to get a DVD of the video teaching done by Chip Ingram. You can get the DVD from livingontheedge.org. Also, it will be helpful for each person to have their own study guide. You can also purchase those through the Living on the Edge website.

4. **Be prepared to facilitate** – Just a few minutes a week in preparation can make a huge difference in the group experience. Each week, preview the video teaching and review the discussion questions. If you don’t think your group can get through all the questions, select the ones that are most relevant to your group.

5. **Learn to say “I don’t know”** – These sessions will spark some lively and spirited discussions. There are lots of different opinions when it comes to the topics in this study. When tough questions come up, it’s OK for you to say, “I don’t know.” Take the pressure off. No one expects you to have all the answers.
6. **Love your group** – Maybe the most important thing you bring to the group is your personal care for them. If you will pray for them, encourage them, call them, email them, involve them, and love them, God will be pleased and you will have a lot of fun along the way.

Thank you for your availability. May God bless you as you serve Him by serving others.

**How to Get the Most Out of This Experience**

You are about to begin a powerful journey exploring some of the most controversial issues of our generation. This powerful series taught by Chip Ingram provides in-depth teaching as well as challenging, practical application.

Below, you will find a list of each week’s segments as well as some hints for getting the most out of this experience. If you are leading the group, you will find Session Notes and coaching on page 107.

1. **Take It In (Watch the Video)**
   - It is important for us to get “before God” and submit ourselves to His truth. During this section you will watch the video teaching by Chip. He will introduce each session with a personal word to the group followed by the teaching portion of the video. At the end of the teaching segment, Chip will wrap up the session and help the group dive into discussion.
   - A teaching outline with fill-ins is provided for each session. As you follow along, write down questions or insights that you can share during the discussion time.
   - Even though most of the verses will appear on the screen and in your notes, it is a great idea to bring your own Bible each week. It will allow you to make notes in your own Bible and find other passages that might be relevant to that week’s study.

2. **Talk It Over**
   - We not only grow by listening to God’s Word, but we grow “in community.” The friendship and insights of those in the group will enrich your small group experience. Several discussion questions
are provided for your group to further engage the teaching content. Keep the following guidelines in mind for having a healthy group discussion.

- **Be involved.** Jump in and share your thoughts. Your ideas are important and you have a perspective that is unique and can benefit the other group members.

- **Be a good listener.** Value what others are sharing. Seek to really understand the perspective of others in your group and don’t be afraid to ask follow up questions.

- **Be courteous.** People hold strong opinions about the topics in this study. Spirited discussion is great. Disrespect and attack is not. When there is disagreement, focus on the issue and never turn the discussion into a personal attack.

- **Be focused.** Stay on topic. Help the group explore the subject at hand and try to save unrelated questions or stories for afterwards.

- **Be careful not to dominate.** Be aware of the amount of talking you are doing in proportion to the rest of the group and make space for others to speak.

- **Be a learner.** Stay sensitive to what God might be wanting to teach you through the lesson, as well as through what others have to say. Focus more on your own growth rather than making a point or winning an argument.

3. **Live It Out — B.I.O.**

   The word “bio” means “life.” Found in those three simple letters B.I.O. is the key to helping you become the person God wants you to be.

   **B = Come “Before God” Daily**
   Meet with Him personally through His Word and prayer to enjoy His presence, receive His direction, and follow His will.

   **I = Do Life “In Community” Weekly**
   Structure your week to personally connect in safe relationships that provide love, support, transparency, challenge, and accountability.
0 = Be “On Mission” 24/7
Cultivate a mindset to “live out” Jesus’ love for others through acts of sacrifice and service at home, work, play, and church.

4. **Accelerate (20 minutes that turn concepts into convictions)**
Inspiration comes from hearing God’s Word; Motivation grows by discussing God’s Word; Transformation occurs when you study it for yourself.

If you want to “accelerate” your growth, here is an assignment you can do at home each week. Our convictions become even stronger when we dig into Scripture and discover truth for ourselves. To help you get the most out of this exercise, consider partnering up with somebody in your group who will also commit to do the assignment this week. Then, after you have each done the assignment, agree to spend 10-15 minutes by phone to share what you learned and what you are applying.
SESSION 1

Unleashing God’s Power into Impossible Situations
**TAKE IT IN (WATCH THE VIDEO)**

The First Step to Breakthrough — Psalm 23

**Five Questions about Breakthrough:**

1. **What is a breakthrough?**

Three key definitions:

1) “An offensive thrust that penetrates and carries beyond a defensive line in warfare.”

   - Breakthroughs are not something you sit around and wait for.

   - God does it, but I have to take an offensive step forward to ACT on what I believe is true and then TRUST God is going to supernaturally do the impossible.

2) “An act or instance of breaking through a __________________________.”

   - We get “stuck” —

     Relationships False beliefs
     Addictions Personal History
     Lies Work Environment

   - Jesus promised: “I will be with you always,” and “All power is given unto Me.”
“You BELIEVE, you TRUST, and you’ll have BREAKTHROUGH.”

3) “A sudden ________________________.”

“Faith doesn’t operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which man can do. Faith begins where man’s power ends.”

GEORGE MUELLER

2. Is there a __________________________ pattern for breakthrough?

Everything in life is either broken and deteriorating and moving toward chaos or it is moving toward health, restoration, and healing.

- Great Need
- Great Sin
- Great Bondage
- God’s Compassion
- God’s Judgment
- God’s Delivery
3. How did Jesus teach His disciples to experience and be ___________________________ of Breakthrough?

1) By proclaiming the “Good News” in Mark 1

This is what God has ALREADY done for you. Receive it; believe it; let it fill you up and then, out of thanksgiving and love, express that same kind of love to others –THAT’S the Good News.

- ___________________________________ – have a genuine change of mind about God and about yourself.
- ___________________________________ the Good News – that God loves you and is FOR you.

2) By ____________________________________ evil.

3) By bringing ______________________________:

Jesus used His miraculous power for the benefit and good of the people.

**TALK IT OVER**

1. When you hear the word “breakthrough,” what words or images come to mind?

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________
2. Beyond those that Chip shared, what are some biblical examples you can think of where people experienced a “breakthrough”?

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

3. What is the difference between a “performance-based” view of salvation and a “grace-based” view of salvation?

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

4. How do you respond to Chip’s statement…”The world today doesn’t need to see more church buildings or church services or our numbers increase... they need to see the power of God in us that does good.”

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

**LIVE IT OUT—B.I.O.**

BIO is a word that is synonymous with “life.” Found in those 3 simple letters B.I.O. is the key to helping you become the person God wants you to be.
B = Come “Before God” daily – To meet with Him personally through His Word and prayer to enjoy His presence, receive His direction, and follow His will.

I = Do Life “In Community” weekly – Structuring your week to personally connect in safe relationships that provide love, support, transparency, challenge, and accountability.

O = Be “On Mission” 24/7 – Cultivating a mindset to “live out” Jesus’ love for others through acts of sacrifice and service at home, work, play, and church.

**COME BEFORE GOD**

5. Mark 1:14-15 (NIV) says:

   After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. “The time has come,” He said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

What does Jesus mean when he says the “kingdom of God has come near”? 
DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

6. Share an experience when you or someone in your family has experienced a “breakthrough.”

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

BE ON MISSION

7. Who is somebody that you know that needs to experience a breakthrough? Spend some time praying specifically for those who need a supernatural breakthrough in their lives.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

ACCELERATE (20 MINUTES THAT TURN CONCEPTS INTO CONVICTIONS)

Inspiration comes from hearing God’s Word; motivation grows by discussing God’s Word; transformation occurs when you study it for yourself.

If you want to “accelerate” your growth, here is an assignment you can do this week. To help you get the most out of this exercise, consider partnering up with somebody in your group who will also commit to do the assignment this week. Then, after you have each done the assignment, agree to spend 10 minutes by phone to share what you learned and what you are applying.
COME BEFORE GOD

1. The gospel of Jesus is all about Breakthrough. Read John 3:1-21.

2. Why would it have been risky for Nicodemus to come to Jesus?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

3. In v.3, Jesus says that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. Why is “birth” a good metaphor for salvation?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________

4. Read the story of the bronze snake in Numbers 21:4-9. Why do you think Jesus references this story here in John 3?
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
5. Circle all the words in John 3:16-21 (NIV) that are Breakthrough words.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

DO LIFE IN COMMUNITY

6. This week when you have lunch with a friend or dinner with your family, take time to pray for someone you know who needs to be “born again.”

BE ON MISSION

7. Make a commitment this week to share your conversion story with someone.