BREAKTHROUGH!
A FAITH ADVENTURE IN PRAYER

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“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord [this IS what prayer is all about]. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have [this is proclamation]. But do this with gentleness and respect [this is action]” (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).
HOW TO USE THIS LEADER’S GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

“Breakthrough” is simply having God answer prayer, especially desperate prayer. “A Faith Adventure in Prayer” is the invitation, opportunity, and call to discover and experience the unforced rhythms of God’s grace for the ultimate joy of Kingdom Advance.

The adventure begins as we learn then practice how to transfer all our cares and concerns in exchange for His peace and eternal purposes, in the setting of community. To be anchored to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, with full dependence upon His Word and Spirit, and in relational unity with others, is both liberating and powerful: it causes you to know God and make Him known - wherever you live, work, and play. It’s His Idea!

Your joy will grow and you will inspire others to help identify and recognize their felt need for breakthrough as the deliberate opportunity to experience Jesus’ presence, peace, and power, found in prayer - especially in a group setting. This, in turn, strategically inspires domain influence.

ABOUT THE FOUNDING DIRECTORS OF BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER MINISTRY

Doug and Karen Braun share a passion to see the Bride of Christ living to her full potential and capacity, which prepares her for Christ’s return. Having served in the church, marketplace, family and educational domain close to 30 years, they understand what can happen when faith is sparked to ignite and unite believers in evangelistic prayer. That’s when breakthroughs explode! Read more about their faith adventure in prayer on Pages 6-53 in the book.

PURPOSE OF THIS RESOURCE

1. To guide you how to maximize and teach the book, Breakthrough! A Faith Adventure in Prayer with practical applications and interaction for a ten week study.
2. To familiarize you with the website www.breakthroughprayer.com and extra resources.
3. To train you to know how to define, hone and unfold God’s call to individual hearts and groups for the sake of impacting their domains of influence.
4. To equip you to mobilize, train and equip for action in prayer and evangelism resulting in one or more ongoing weekly prayer groups for Spirit-led breakthroughs in your city/community.
5. To support various methods of study including personal, weekly, a weekend retreat/conference, or sermon series.

SET UP

Participants should have a copy of Breakthrough! A Faith Adventure In Prayer, or easy access to one. To order by phone call 1.800.667.0558 or 1.604.514.2016. To order online go to: http://www.powertochange.org/?page=shop/flypage&product_id=4024&category_id=cf37c71711fe5d7e6298c7ab6b26abd08. This Leader’s Guide assumes that all participants will read the book and complete assignments before meeting together each week. Interactive studies are provided to increase knowledge and faith action using discussion, take-home assignments, and action opportunities of engagement. For many, the book offers a reminder of information they have heard in bits and pieces throughout their lives. For others the information may be new. Therefore, having a copy of the book is highly recommended.

There are five symbols in this guide that highlight the sections to cover each week. They are: Preparation, Opener, Study, Prayer, and Action. As the Group Leader, you can add your own creative ideas or questions best suited for your group. Please read Group Leader Guidelines and familiarize yourself with the content and flow of the book and Leader’s Guide. Then get ready for the faith adventure that awaits you!
“The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind — Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, So they might be one heart and mind with us. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me.” – Jesus, as quoted in John 17:21 from The Message

Small groups are essential to our purpose as followers of Christ. When people come together there is increased opportunity for: unity, growth, care, challenge, action, encouragement, and answers to prayer that break through. It is noteworthy that Jesus invested the majority of His public ministry into the lives of twelve men – His small group for breakthrough!

Leading a group is exceptionally fulfilling and results in your own personal growth. In fact, as the leader you will experience the greatest blessing of all. You are strategically positioned to influence not only the individuals in your group, but their families and networks as well, including your city/community. For these reasons, you need to be prepared for this adventure of faith as group dynamics require discernment and wisdom with full dependence on God.

The following Guidelines are indispensable for leading a dynamic group. We highly encourage you to put these into practice as you facilitate. It may also be helpful to review these tips on occasion during the ten week course of your time together.

1. **KNOW YOUR GROUP.** Know the names of everyone in your group. Take a personal interest in them. Acknowledge new people to your group. Have a general idea of what the needs and dynamics of your group are.

2. **PREPARE.** Make sure that you are familiar with the material that you are going to cover with each lesson. Complete your own assignments. You Can’t Lead Where You Won’t Go. Allow God and the lesson to meet you at a heart level – not just the head or gut. Spend time in prayer calling out your dependence on God for those in your group by name. Our Leadership Development Tools are designed especially for you on Pages 250-255.

3. **BE CREATIVE.** The lessons are designed as a guide. Be creative, expressing the lessons in your own style. Knowing your group will help with creativity. Visualize, paint word pictures, share personal stories, God stories, power point, etc., where appropriate.

4. **FACILITATE GROUP DYNAMICS.** Your main purpose is to lead by example and facilitate discussion and application in the group. Make sure you’re not doing most of the talking. Encourage involvement. Rephrase questions if needed. Don’t be afraid of silence but do not let it be quiet too long. Ask individuals by name for their input. Pray together.

5. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.** Make sure that everyone has equal opportunity to participate in the discussion and prayer times. Often groups can be dominated by two to three people who tend to be more vocal. This is an important understanding of your Group Guidelines that you agree upon in your first week. Affirm the vocal ones, but ask the other individuals for their contribution. You may be surprised at the depth of responses from those who are generally quiet. Silence does not always mean non-involvement.

6. **SIDE-TRACKS.** Many times you will find that the discussion can get easily side-tracked and you need to refocus your group. This calls for judgment on your part to determine if it is beneficial or detrimental to the point of the lesson or the circumstances of your people. In saying this, be conscious to allow for the movement of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we can be too rigid in our desire to make a point or get through a lesson. It may be that God wants to break through in some of these more spontaneous moments. Listen and respond to the Spirit.

7. **STICK TO GUIDELINES.** The Group Guidelines that you agree upon together in the first week are important to uphold throughout your entire time together. Honour your agreement by keeping within the timeline, topics and involvement. If dynamics change, agree together on new Guidelines.
WEEK # 1:

BEGINNING A BREAKTHROUGH ADVENTURE

PREPARATION

1. Read through all the materials in the book and guide that will be covered for this week so that you are familiar with them. For this and every week anticipate any questions that may come from the group and be prepared with the answers. Choose the resources for this session that are appropriate for your group.

2. For each of the sessions, layout of the room is important. Different seating configurations and chair placements will communicate various messages. Ideally, you should set up seating of the room in a circle to ensure that you as the leader are visible from all places.


OPENER

1. Briefly introduce yourself to the group. You may want to include a short version of the journey that led to your leading this group study and why you are excited about what God might do through your time together over the next ten weeks.

2. Explain that the purpose of this week’s session is to get to know each other and agree upon the Group Guidelines that will make your time together the most meaningful.

3. Open with a prayer committing your time to God and inviting the Holy Spirit to lead you.

STUDY

1. Introduction. Have the group introduce themselves to the rest of the members with the following questions from Page 15 of the book. You, as the leader or someone you’ve prepared to share, should begin. You can go around the circle or have people speak as they are ready. Make sure each person has had the opportunity to answer the questions.
   a. Your name.
   b. What do you hope to take away from this study?
   c. Your choice of answering one of the other questions on Page 15.

2. Transition. Thank each one for sharing and summarize the general sentiment of the group.

   Example: Well, thank you for sharing a snapshot of your life with this group. I think we’ll have a meaningful time together over these ten weeks. It sounds like we all are hungry for more of God in our lives and we need Him to break through for us in certain areas. In order to make our time most meaningful, we need to agree on a number of guidelines as to how our group will operate.

3. Group Guidelines Agreement. There are four areas covered in the book that include Guidelines to benefit: Group Dynamics; Prayer; Action Steps we may take; and Breakthrough the Prayer Ministry.

Inquire, Hear & Obey for the Advance of God’s Kingdom
a. **Group Dynamics**
   i. We will meet together *<every week>* on *<day of the week>*?
   ii. Our meetings will begin *<promptly/around>* *<time>* and end no later than *<time>*?
   iii. We will/will not have food? How will it be provided?
   iv. We agree to regular attendance and will call *<the leader>* if we are unable to make it.
   v. Everyone must have their own book. Family members or couples can share books and will need to write answers on separate paper.
   vi. We will study the material and complete the assignments prior to the lesson time. This guideline is very important as it may be impossible to accomplish the goal of each lesson or have people engaged in conversation without the adequate preparation of reading and applying the lesson.
   vii. We will participate in the discussion and provide everyone the opportunity to contribute in the discussion and prayer times.
   viii. Is our group open to having new members join us part way through? *Yes___  No ___*
   ix. The primary ways we will build openness, trust and accountability are…
   x. Childcare will be handled by…
   xi. Other.

b. **Prayer.** We agree to pray and ask God to increase our joy, excitement, and commitment to prayer with the expectation that He will answer our shared focus in evangelistic prayer. We also seek to determine His call to partner with Him for breakthrough, wherever we live, work and play, during and after this study. Have someone read Pages 238-239. Briefly discuss anything that is applicable.

c. **Action.** Have someone else read Pages 240-241. Can we agree to expect God to provide encouragement opportunities to serve and act upon?

d. **Breakthrough Prayer Ministry.** It is possible during or after this study that individuals or our entire group may sense God’s call to become an official Breakthrough Prayer Team. We agree to pray and ask God for His specific direction regarding this. To help decide, review Pages 242-245 and hand out the *Getting Started* notes. Encourage your group to explore the Breakthrough website at [www.breakthroughprayer.com](http://www.breakthroughprayer.com) over the next ten weeks.

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**PRAYER**

1. Read *Praying Together* on Pages 76-77, both the testimony and the Scripture verses in the right column.
2. Have people pray what is on their hearts in response to this testimony and Scriptures. Encourage everyone to pray out loud. For those who have never done so, suggest they write out a prayer and then read it out loud, or pray a Scripture verse as their prayer. The goal is to practice praying together, out loud, in agreement using the Word of God.

**ACTION**

1. Get to know the author by reading her testimony on Pages 62-65 and 70-73 and her prayerful invitation to us on Pages 16-17.
2. Read Lesson One in the book, the chapter entitled *Prayer: Defining the Indefinable*, Pages 84-99, and complete your answers to all the *Get Real* questions.
3. Spend at least ten minutes in prayer this week specifically asking God to take you deeper, higher and wider on your faith adventure in prayer for how He purposes to lead you in the next weeks and beyond.
4. Explore [www.breakthroughprayer.com](http://www.breakthroughprayer.com) as you are able. Consider starting with the *About Prayer* section.
WEEK # 2:

PRAYER – DEFINING THE INDEFINABLE

PREPARATION
1. Ensure you are prepared by pre-reading the lesson and anticipating where the group will go in conversation.
2. Pray, trusting God to give you insight in how to lead the group.
3. Lay out the seating in a circle and make sure you can have eye contact with each person.

OPENER
1. Welcome everyone to Week #2, your session on Prayer – Defining the Indefinable. Introduce yourself and anyone that is new.
2. Briefly review your Group Agreement from last week.
3. Introduce today’s lesson:
   Example: Today we are going to set the foundation for our faith development in prayer by defining what prayer really is. We may find that we have to unearth some misconceptions about prayer from our past understanding. We will also discover that prayer is an exciting two-sided adventure and collaborative effort with God - to know Him, be known, and make Him known.
4. Have everyone in the group recount one of the first prayers they ever heard or were taught to pray (as a child, in church, etc.).
5. Say the Lord’s Prayer together.

STUDY
1. What Is Prayer? Have someone read the first paragraph on Page 86.
2. Defining Prayer
   a. Say: There are three common misconceptions of what prayer is: spiritual superstition, a magic formula and an unconditional guarantee. How have you seen these in your life?
   b. Have someone read the last paragraph of Page 87.
   c. Ask the following questions from Page 89:
      i. What happens if your prayers are one-sided? (Meaning you’re praying to God but not hearing from Him).
      ii. What might change in your prayer life if you saw your conversation with Almighty God as having a higher purpose?
      iii. What do you do if you don’t “feel” like talking to God?
      iv. What do you do if you don’t “feel” like listening to God?
3. Share In Christ’s Authority
   a. Have someone read the paragraph that begins with “All authority is from God.” at the bottom of Page 90.
   b. Ask. Why is alignment with God’s purposes and plans crucial?
   c. Why might people struggle to accept God’s will?
4. **Exercise Authority With Spiritual Weapons**
   a. Have someone read paragraphs 3-5 on Page 91 beginning with “Satan’s prideful attempt...”
   b. What do you think exercising spiritual authority looks like?
   c. How do the weapons highlighted in green on Pages 91-92 effectively combat our enemy?

5. **Implementing God’s Authority**
   a. Ephesians 6 highlights seven principles for spiritual warfare. These are identified on Pages 92-93.
   b. What difference does it make in your life to talk to God about His provision and claiming rightful ownership to use that provision? (Review some of the seven principles from Ephesians 6).
   c. Why do many believers not share in the authority Christ has provided for them?

6. **Prayer Styles**
   a. Have someone read the first paragraph on Page 97 “Our unique God-given personality...”
   b. Read each of the Prayer Styles on Pages 97-99 and have people raise their hand if they have ever used, or identify with that style of prayer.

### PRAYER

1. Spend a few moments praying *popcorn prayers* – spontaneous prayers, one to two sentence’s at a time, and taking turns - through each of the seven principles from Ephesians 6 on Pages 92-93.
   a. Read each one and let people *pray into it* – meaning: state their understanding and declare their faith about that particular truth and how it applies for them and one another as a collective group.
   b. Once you sense that people are finished praying about that principle, read and pray into the next one and so on, until complete.
   c. Conclude by praying the Scriptures in green found on Page 88.

### ACTION

1. Ask each person to re-read Pages 94-95 of Lesson One and circle one statement they sense God’s Spirit highlights for them to exercise faith and trust in as it relates to their most current pressing care, concern or circumstance.
2. Read Lesson Two in the book, the chapter entitled *Hearing the Inaudible*, Pages 100-117, and complete your answers to all the Get Real sections.
WEEK # 3:

HEARING THE INAUDIBLE

PREPARATION
1. Ensure you are prepared by pre-reading the lesson and anticipate where the group will go.
2. Spend an extended period of time in prayer this week, using your spiritual senses to listen to God. Record or journal how and what He specifically says to you through His Word, creation, songs, word pictures, headlines in the news, etc.
3. Provide paper and pens for each person.
4. Photocopy Vocabulary Assistance Tool on Pages 114-115, enough copies for each person.

OPENER
1. Have everyone in the group close their eyes and be silent for 30 seconds listening for everything they can hear in that moment.
2. Have people share what they heard until absolutely everything has been identified.
3. Ask: What surprised you about this exercise?
4. How does silence and listening make you more aware of what is really going on?
5. Transition into today's session.
   Example: Today’s lesson is about hearing the inaudible. God longs to speak to us. Often, however, we are not still or quiet long enough to hear what He has to say. Just like we became acutely aware of what was going on around us by being silent, we need to learn to hear God’s voice by silencing the other voices that loudly compete for our focus.
6. Read Jeremiah 33:3 in the (NIV), “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.”
7. Have two people lead out in prayer asking God to give you ears to hear what He would say to you today and in the weeks to come.

STUDY
1. Developing Your Spiritual Senses
   a. Say: God has given us five senses in order to experience the physical world around us. These same senses can be used to experience and hear God on a spiritual level.
   b. Go around the circle and have each person read a verse from Pages 103-104.
   c. Have several people highlight a verse that was meaningful to them and why.
2. God Wants Us To Listen
   a. Have someone or several people take turns reading Pages 105-106.
   b. Learning to hear God’s voice is a process and a journey that takes time and practice. Why is it important to have His voice verified by both God’s written Word (the Bible) and other believers?
   c. In general terms, it seems the Church has downplayed the listening side of prayer and focused more on our prayers God-ward.
      i. Why do you think this is?
      ii. How do you think God might feel about this?
3. **Physical Ears Spiritual Ears**
   a. Have someone or several people take turns reading Pages 107-109.
   b. How do you know when you have been heard?
   c. What does listening to God mean to you?
4. **Fear Affects Hearing**
   a. Have someone read the first paragraph on Page 110 and then answer the question in the last sentence: “If it is so wonderful to hear God, why are some of us afraid of the experience?”
   b. If you are afraid of hearing God, what are you afraid of?
   c. Have several people share their answer to the question, “Which issue best defines your hearing impairment? Why?”
   d. How would you define what a healthy fear of God looks like for you?
   e. Read the first paragraph on Page 112, “What you believe about being loved…”
   f. Ask: Why is it sometimes hard to give and receive love? (see Page 113)
5. **Knowledge Affects Hearing**
   a. Read the first 2 paragraphs on Page 116, “Regardless of what you have ever believed…” and the paragraph/bullet points on Page 117, “Here is what we learn from Deuteronomy about ourselves…”
6. **Vocabulary Affects Hearing**
   b. Say: Sometimes our vocabulary, or even lack of vocabulary, affects our ability to hear. Identifying accurate words to describe what we feel and think will in turn help us hear better what God or others would have to say to us as we come to understand what we truly believe.
   i. Have the group break into smaller groups of two to three people for this exercise.
   ii. Instruct the groups to take three minutes to go through the list and circle all the words that identify where they need breakthrough in their lives.
   iii. After three minutes instruct the groups to take three minutes to go through the list and underline all the words that capture what they currently think or feel about hearing God.
   iv. Allow enough time for the groups to share their answers with each other to identify what this reveals about their beliefs.
   v. Direct the groups to pray for each other specifically about the things they underlined and circled.

**PRAYER**
1. Bring the group together.
2. Spend five minutes in silent prayer listening for what God would say regarding what they believe. Ask: What new truth needs to replace false belief? Pause, then ask “Or what truth do they want to believe to replace lies?” Invite the group to use their Bible to reflect on the lesson. Encourage each person to record what they hear God say to them by either journaling, drawing a picture or use some other creative method.
3. Have everyone say out loud, three times: “I believe I am loved, valued, and accepted unconditionally!” First as a whisper, then in regular voice, finally as a loud declaration.

**ACTION**
1. Read Lesson Three in the book, the chapter entitled God’s Voiceprint, Pages 119 -132, and complete all the Get Real questions.
2. Encourage the group to spend time through the week to examine their cares and concerns through the lens of the Vocabulary Assistance Tool. For their breakthrough, remind them to listen with awareness, using their spiritual senses, to His truth that needs to be spoken into their circumstances.
WEEK # 4:

GOD’S VOICEPRINT

PREPARATION
1. Review the Group Leader Guidelines.
2. Have a copy of the Prepared Hearts Guide for everyone. It is a card insert in the inside front cover of each book and can be found on Pages 246-249. It is also available online under Downloads/How To’s at www.breakthroughprayer.com.
3. If you know that someone in your group has experienced a breakthrough, you can ask them in advance if they could share a brief testimony. Otherwise you will have to rely on spontaneous sharing for the opener.
4. Download a copy of the crowd noise and provide a way to play it. This is available online under Downloads/A Leader’s Guide at www.breakthroughprayer.com.
5. Have a copy of the song by Mercy me: Word of God Speak and a way of playing it for the group. You could show the YouTube version on a TV or a computer. Available here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JK_6osCH74.

OPENER
1. Testimony. Ask one or two people to convey how God gave them insight and/or a breakthrough as a result of their time spent praying into the Vocabulary Assistance Tool.
2. Introduce Today’s Session:
   a. Example: “Last session we explored what it means to hear the inaudible. We do not expect to hear the audible voice of God, yet God speaks inaudibly all the time. Today we are going to dig deeper into what it means to hear God and recognize His voiceprint amidst all the other competing voices in our world.
3. Play the recording of the crowd noise.
   a. What is one sentence or conversation that made sense in this recording?
   b. Can anybody figure out what the conversations were about?
   c. What would help discern one conversation in the crowd?
   d. How is this crowd noise sometimes like our prayer experience with God?
4. Play/show the Song by Mercy Me: Word of God Speak from their album Spoken For.
5. Opening Prayer - have several people lead out in prayer asking God to speak to the group today.

STUDY
1. God’s Voiceprint
   a. Have someone read Pages 120-121.
   b. Ask: How would you explain the last sentence to someone, “Relationship listens from the heart. Religion doesn’t.”?
   c. Reflect back to last week’s lesson on Pages 107-108 about the ear. Which ear (outer, middle, or inner) of yours has God spoken through this week?
2. **Competing Voices**
   a. Have someone read Pages 122-123.
   b. On Page 122, it says, “Recognizing and responding to His voice is to experience life for our whole being - body, soul, and spirit.” How does that happen? How has that happened for you?
   c. What’s hard about being still and waiting for God?
   d. Play the crowd noise again. What helps you hear God’s voice with all the competing voices of your day?

3. **Note The Obvious**
   a. Say: There are three obvious ways God speaks to your spirit: through a personal sense of order with peace, specific direction, and conviction of sin. Have several people account their answers from Page 125.
      i. Is there a time you have known a great sense of peace?
      ii. How have you perceived God’s direction in your life?
      iii. How do you discern which messages you hear are from God?

4. **God’s Communication Style**
   a. Say: 15 communication styles are listed on Pages 126-128 with examples from Scripture. On Page 129 it says (read the paragraph beginning with “It is clear from these Scriptures…”).
   b. Break into small groups of three to four people and have them answer the last three questions on Page 130. Give them a set time to complete this.
      i. What are some hurdles you must overcome to acquire the ability to hear God’s voice?
      ii. What has God said to you through the verses in this chapter?
      iii. What are three adjectives that describe what God’s voice sounds like to you?

### PRAYER
1. Listen Long, Listen Deep. Bring everyone together in a large group again or leave them in their small groups.
2. Say: We are going to spend some time in prayer practicing this lesson by hearing what God has to say to us tonight. I am going to read each of the bullet points on Pages 131-132 along with the Scripture verses and we will take a moment of silence to hear what God might be saying to us through His Word and Spirit. Then we will pray back what God speaks to our hearts.
3. Conclude the time by reading Matthew 11:28 from Page 120.

### ACTION
1. Read Lesson Four in the book, the chapter entitled F.A.C.T.S. Synopsis and complete all the Get Real questions.
2. Say: Next week we are going to spend at least one hour in prayer together based on the FACTS or ACTS format. You may want to practice praying through these elements using this guide in your prayer times this week for familiarity when we next get together.
3. For an online training demonstration of a group praying this way through the elements of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication, go online to Breakthrough Prayer Ministry at [www.breakthroughprayer.com](http://www.breakthroughprayer.com) and select Online Training Course on the Home Page. Create a user name and password to enter the Breakthrough Training Course then scroll down and click on An Example of Adoration, An Example of Confession, etc., found in each section. Explore the rest of the training at your own choice and pace.
4. Be sure to bring your Bibles and book every week.
WEEK # 5:
F.A.C.T.S. ON ACTS

PREPARATION
1. Go online to www.breakthroughprayer.com to become familiar with the website and where to find the FACTS Verses under Home, About Prayer, Blogs and Downloads.
   a. There are two format styles: a trimester download that includes a devotional theme with four months of weekly verses; and the current week’s verses in a Blog format. These FACTS Verses form the basis of weekly prayer for Breakthrough prayer teams around the world.
   b. Encourage use to everyone from your group, especially those who sense they are called to commit to weekly prayer in a group after your study is complete. Note: Some use this guide for personal devotions and thousands of prayer teams and churches use it as a guide for one hour of effective prayer each week.
2. Print the current FACTS Trimester Download – a copy for each member to tuck into their Bible (http://powertochange.com/breakthroughprayer/downloads/acts-verses/) and bring with them each week.
3. Use the current online FACTS Verses for the week of your study. Or see Pages 184 -186 in the book to choose a sample set from the Devotional and FACTS Verses listed there.
4. It may be new to you and your group to pray for one hour using Scripture as a guide that cultivates the exercise and use of the elements of prayer.
   a. The key difference to this method is that typically in a prayer group, many take time to ask what the needs and requests are and then pray. The FACTS method does NOT spend the time in discussing what to pray about but rather begins straight away using the Word of God to direct focus for prayer and then listen and respond to God’s Holy Spirit. From our existing knowledge about issues and circumstances and the revelation of God’s Word and Spirit, we soon discover how to be led in prayers of authority, power and agreement.
   b. It is not uncommon to find, that those new at this, can jump to a ‘grocery list’ of prayers of Supplication while you are still focused on Adoration. It will help to explain this method before practicing it and choose not to get frustrated if some don’t get it. Time and practice develop this skill.
   c. The goal is not rigidity by rule but the understanding and cultivation of the elements for effective prayer conversations with God – values of Focus, Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

OPENER
1. What is the most meaningful/memorable conversation you have had with God?
2. How did that differ from the first prayer you were taught or remember praying?
3. Say: There are many different models and helps for prayer including the Lord’s Prayer. Today we are going to learn the FACTS or ACTS format to guide one hour of prayer.
4. Open in prayer asking God to lead you to pray, guided by His Word and Holy Spirit.

STUDY
1. Have someone read Pages 137-138.
2. Ask for response on all six questions on Page 138.
Inquire, Hear & Obey for the Advance of God’s Kingdom

PRAYER

1. Say: Taking one focused hour each week to pray with others in agreement around God’s Word, is to encounter the transforming and liberating Power of Christ’s Presence in and through you by His Holy Spirit. How does it work?
   a. “God can do anything prayer can do!” (E.M. Bounds)
   b. “Don’t tell God how big your storm is, tell your storm how big God is.” (Unknown)

2. The FACTS format may be new for us and initially feel like a rigid and awkward exercise to begin. Don’t worry. The more you practice this skill each week the more conditioned you will become by these values. Eventually this shapes your prayers into effective and very meaningful conversations that collaborate for breakthrough. You may want to journal the prayers prayed as a diary and record of your conversations with God and faith adventure in prayer. Find a sample under Downloads/Prayer Power Tools: http://powertochange.com/breakthroughprayer/downloads/prayer-power-tools/.

3. As the facilitator, start by reading the Devotional. This sets up the theme for the verses.
4. Select the week appropriate FACTS Verses from the FACTS Trimester Download and open your Bible. Assign different people to each verse.
5. Have someone read the FOCUS Verse out loud and then pray to invite God’s Holy Spirit to help focus your prayer hour to the desires of His heart. Consider the theme and expect the words of Scripture to align your thoughts and heart to focus and listen to His Spirit. Express that process to God.
6. Next have the ADORATION Verse read out loud. Take turns using sentence prayers to intentionally express your appreciation of God by telling Him what about Himself is highlighted for you in that verse. Tell Him how that makes you feel. You may want to think through the alphabet, adoring God with a quality that begins with one or each of the letters A-Z. Park here until you sense you are ready to move on.
7. Have the CONFESSION Verse read out loud and ask God to reveal anything that may be hindering you from hearing Him. The Scripture verse itself may point that out. Consider this from a personal, as well as, a corporate perspective and quickly agree and confess, renounce and forsake all sin as He reveals. There are times your one hour of prayer may be spent on one element more than another. Never rush the work of God’s Spirit and how He is leading you to pray. Always respond to the unforced rhythm of His grace.
8. As you read the THANKSGIVING Verse begin to acknowledge God’s answers and give credit where credit is due regarding His involvement in your circumstances. Acknowledge out loud the challenges and difficulties that are part of your world by expressing them with a thankful trust in the One who is greater. “God thank you for this unexpected news – you are bigger than ____________ and I trust you.” Sometimes you may want to sing or move around: do so! Thanksgiving is about exercising faith into our circumstances.
9. Now as you read the SUPPLICATION Verse you are ready to begin declaring truth in agreement with authority, expectation and trust into your needs and over your spheres of influence, with sensitivity to God’s purposes for people and circumstances. Pray into the things you know, listening to the things you don’t know that God will reveal. Note them in writing. Move God’s hand by your faith. This is where power is at work when two of you agree in faith about anything. Declare! Remain! Believe! Receive! Persevere!

ACTION

1. Read Lesson Five in the book, the chapter entitled The Returns of Obedience and complete the Get Real questions.
2. Ask everyone to come prepared next week to share a God Story – a story of breakthrough due to God’s intervention in your life or circumstances because of intentional collaboration with Him in prayer, since studying these lessons.
THE RETURNS OF OBEDIENCE

PREPARATION
1. This week’s lesson goes deep into the heart and motive of our living. The goal of the lesson is to awaken desire to walk into continual freedom with the spiritual authority that is rightfully ours, and away from the curse of personal and generational sins that rob us of influential living. This is about taking steps into the power of God’s Spirit that comes only by practicing full surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is essential that you spend time in prayer each day this week for your group and for yourself regarding the heart of this matter – this is where the real battle exists and victories are won.
2. Practice the authority that is yours in Christ to walk in increased personal freedom.
3. Have a box of tissues on hand during group prayer, referring to it as a permission box.
4. Determine if you need more time for this week’s lesson and contract that extension with your group by agreement either before, or at the time, you meet. Expect God to be at work.

OPENER
1. Say: Last week I asked you to be prepared to share a God Story - a story of breakthrough because of God’s intervention in your life or circumstances because of intentional collaboration with Him in prayer, since studying these lessons. For some, your God Story may still be in development stage. Acknowledge that as a declaration of faith.
2. Give each person an opportunity to tell their story briefly.
3. Open with a prayer of invitation and thanksgiving for what God desires to continue to work out in our lives according to His eternal purposes and plans.
4. If anticipated, mention the need to revise your agreement to extend time for this week’s lesson in particular and allow and expect God to be at work.

STUDY
1. Review. Say: For the past five weeks our studies have focused on the essentials of prayer for personal breakthrough. The topics have included: defining my understanding and elements of prayer, learning to clearly hear the voice of God, and how to pray for at least one hour. Today’s lesson concludes our focus for personal breakthrough, entitled The Returns of Obedience. Next week, we will focus on how to seek God’s heart on behalf of others for breakthrough; particularly for those in our spheres or domains of influence where we live, work and play.
2. The Returns of Obedience
   a. Have someone read the first five paragraphs on Page 156.
   b. What is required for someone/you to obey (your children, work, sports…)?
   c. What is required for someone/you to obey God?
3. The Power Source
   a. Have a couple of people take turns to read all of Pages 158-159.
   b. Ask: How have you lived like Mr Yates in your Christian life?
   c. Describe all the differences between the person who knows Jesus as Saviour and the person who knows Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
d. From Page 160, have people share the benefits in their own life, of walking in the power of God’s Spirit.
e. Describe the difference when the Church walks fully surrendered to Jesus as Lord.

4. **Plugging Into Full Power**
   a. Have someone read Page 161.
   b. Say: *The reality is that none of us can be overflowing with complete fullness and power of the Holy Spirit of God if we are filled with any measure of ourselves. We must die to sin and self entirely, not just 99.9%. It may be that you have never understood this truth, or that you have been resistant to letting God have full control of your life. We are going to take a few moments in prayer to give opportunity to invite Jesus to be not only our Saviour, but our Lord of All as well.*
   c. Pray the prayer out loud on Page 249 in the right column starting with, “Dear Father, obviously…” and then invite the group to spend 3-5 minutes in silent prayer or have people lead out loud in personal expressions of surrender and abandon to Him.

5. **Extending Power**
   a. Have someone read Page 162.
   b. From Galatians 5:16, 25, what does it mean to you to walk in step with the Spirit?
   c. What might happen in your domain of influence by walking this way?

6. **Spiritual Weeding**
   a. Have someone read Pages 163-164 until “Weeds-The Fruit of Sinful Choices.”
   b. What are some of the curses you see in your family – sinful patterns and behaviors that seem to be handed down from previous generations?
   c. Have someone read Pages 164-165, skipping over the Get Real questions.
   d. What weeds need to be uprooted and come out of my life?
   e. Say: *We are going to take some time to pray into today’s lesson.*

**PRAYER**
1. Stand and pray out loud, as a whole group, the prayer of corporate confession on Page 169.
2. Break into groups of two to three people and pray for each other as needed from today’s lesson. It can be meaningful to come around one person at a time and lay hands gently on their shoulder or back as you take turns praying for their need (ask if they are comfortable with this). Take turns being the one prayed for. Learn to pray Scriptures that confirm and support the truth in any word pictures that are prayed. Have the box of tissues handy. Encourage one another to total abandon to the One who is able.
3. You may also want to have the groups pray through the eight steps together on Pages 166-168 OR encourage as a personal exercise on their own time.

**ACTION**
1. Read Pages 171-186 of Lesson Six in the book, the beginning of the chapter entitled *Power Tools* and complete the Get Real questions.
2. Say: *Next week we are going to look at how prayer and fasting, and praying God’s Word can lead to breakthrough on behalf of our spheres of influence. We will better understand how to unleash and unfold the love of God to the people where we live, work, and play.*
3. Assign everyone the task of identifying their top “domain” of influence distinguished by the people they know and care about and the “banner” they wave. Read Pages 202-203 to assist this process and answer the Get Real questions found there.
4. Brainstorm creative ways to research more about their domain from a city/community perspective and to present their findings next week (i.e. Chamber of Commerce, maps, a photo shoot, newspaper articles, city demographics, etc.).
5. Everyone come prepared next week to share their domain findings.
WEEK # 7:

POWER TOOLS – FASTING & GOD’S WORD

PREPARATION
1. Choose a new FACTS set of Scripture Verses - preferably from the website for the current week of your study and have them available as a hand out or from Page 186.
2. Have a laptop computer or TV ready to show pictures; maps, etc., of what people researched for the domain that best represents their sphere of influence.
3. Determine from those in your group which domain is most prominently represented by your group and let that help you determine where to prayer walk for the next week.

OPENER
1. Say: Today we are going to talk about the Power Tools of Prayer and Fasting and Praying God’s Word, and at the end spend an extended time in prayer for those we love and care about, and perhaps those we don’t, in or around the sphere of influence where God has strategically positioned us.
2. Say: Last week, I gave the assignment to identify and research your sphere of influence and determine which domain that it best represents for our city/community.
3. Provide time for each person to highlight their findings and be creative in how they present their information. Acknowledge which domain seems most prominent in your group as determined by the responses (family, education, church, marketplace, sport, etc.).

STUDY
1. The Power of Fasting
   a. Have someone read the first four paragraphs on Page 172 (up to I remember the first time I decided to fast because I had a need.)
   b. Several fasts are mentioned here. What other kinds of fasts (voluntary choice to involve the body in an exercise of humility) might we consider?
   c. Why does fasting allow us to hear God more clearly and pray more specifically?
   d. Say: On Pages 172-176 the author shares her own compelling reasons to fast and pray in desperation for God’s intervention, direction, provision, wisdom, strength and help. She reveals felt needs like: marriage, children, ministry direction, spheres of influence, health crisis, opportunities, etc. What kind of desperate need are you facing that only God can breakthrough?
   e. Have someone read the God Story on Pages 78-80.
   f. How do you know that a fast really brings breakthrough?
   g. From the research we did about domains for our city/community, what are some breakthroughs needed for our families, church, education, marketplace, city, etc?
2. Biblical Reasons for Fasting
   a. Have someone read the section on Pages 176-177 – Biblical Reasons for Fasting.
   b. Have several share their answers to the two Get Real questions on Page 177.
3. Personal Fasting / Corporate Fasting
   a. Have someone read the two sections on Pages 178-179.
   b. Have several people share their answers to the Get Real questions on Page 179.
4. **The Power of Praying God's Word**
   a. How is the Word of God described in Isaiah 55:9-11 like the life cycle of water?
   b. In this section (pgs. 180-182), the author explains in more detail the value of praying God’s Word as prayer. How might this change your prayer times?

**PRAYER**

1. Use the FACTS verses to lead you in a time of prayer for your city and focus on the domain where God has strategically positioned you for influence.
2. Ask God to reveal the people in the domains of your city/community who need breakthrough and pray that God will rise up prayer teams (labourers) on their behalf.

**ACTION**

1. Have everyone take out the Gateway Strategy Brochure in the inside front pocket of their book and ask them to read it before next week.
2. Say: Next week we are going on a prayer walk to generate God stories. **Come prepared with appropriate clothing and walking shoes. Bring a journal and pen.** We will meet at ___________. Determine the location yourself, or put it to a group decision, i.e. choose a place that represents the groups most shared scope of influence - downtown, a school, a church, a business – somewhere that includes a place to meet before and after your walk. You may also choose the area around someone’s home.
3. Make arrangements for a back-up plan if weather is uncooperative and you need to remain indoors. You could choose to meet inside a church, school, or business. Once inside you could spread out maps, use phone books, business cards, etc., of your city/community and visualize a prayer walk of the streets, or businesses by name or area, imagining what your senses would lead you to pray if you were physically walking there. Distribute the hand-outs to use.
4. Encourage people to also ask God what kind of fast they might choose in this next week expecting to generate God stories of breakthrough for certain individuals or highlighted issues from today’s lesson or even personal cares and circumstances. Be praying to see spheres of influence through God’s eyes.
5. To learn how to begin a fast, visit: [http://www.ccci.org/training-and-growth/devotional-life/7-steps-to-fasting/02-how-to-begin-your-fast.htm](http://www.ccci.org/training-and-growth/devotional-life/7-steps-to-fasting/02-how-to-begin-your-fast.htm).
6. Also, suggest using the *Prepared Heart Guide* (inside front pocket of book) as preparation for the Fast and the Prayer Walk.
7. Read the final Pages 187-195 of Lesson Six in the book, entitled *Power Tools* and complete the Get Real questions.
WEEK # 8:

POWER TOOLS – WALKING & JOURNALING

PREPARATION
1. Call everyone from your group through the week and remind them of the place you are going to meet for the prayer walk. You may want to ask how this study is impacting their life and offer to pray for them on the phone regarding what they are facing.
2. Photocopy enough copies of the Prayer Walking PDF from the website so that everyone has a copy. You can find these under Downloads/Prayer Power Tools:
   http://powertochange.com/breakthroughprayer/downloads/prayer-power-tools/
3. Bring enough pens so everyone can write and journal their prayer walk.

OPENER
1. Meet at your chosen location.
2. Give each person a copy of the Prayer Walking PDF and read up to the Get Real questions.
3. Explain that you are going to prayer walk in groups of two to three people and record what you see by answering the Get Real questions and what God impresses on the ear of your heart.
4. There are also Scripture Verses on the handout to pray through as you walk.
5. Break into groups of two to three. Decide on a time and place to return back and share your experiences.

STUDY
1. Each group share your experience and what God showed you from this walk combined with your research from last week about your sphere/domain of influence.
2. Ask: what do you think God might want to do in your city based on these observations?
3. Close in prayer thanking God for giving you His eyes to see as He sees and revealing His heart to you. Ask for that to increase.

PRAYER
1. Listen Long, Listen Deep. Bring everyone together in a large group again or leave them in their small groups.
2. Say: We are going to spend some time in prayer practicing the lesson of listening long and deep to hear what God has to say to us tonight. I am going to read each of the bullet points on Pages 131-132 along with the verses and we will take a moment of silence to hear what God might be saying to us through these verses. Then we will pray what God speaks to our hearts. This is about learning how to pray God’s heart.
3. Conclude the time by reading Matthew 11:28 from Page 120.

ACTION
1. Read Pages 196-223 of Lesson seven in the book, the chapter entitled Kingdom Advance and complete the Get Real questions.
WEEK # 9:

KINGDOM ADVANCE

PREPARATION

1. The intent of Week #9 is to help solidify God’s call to each person’s heart and what that represents for their city/community. It is also meant to cultivate a willingness to inquire, hear and obey, regarding their care and concern, for Kingdom advance. Over the past weeks the lessons have moved from personal breakthrough towards generating breakthrough for those in our sphere of influence. From inward to outward focus, always with upward dependence. The breakthrough that God brings inside you first will always ignite the fire to generate God stories elsewhere.

2. Have a copy of Brian Doerksen’s Refiners Fire and a way of playing it for the group. Available here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idA6fCAHVzs.

3. The intent of Week #10 is to: share a meal together to Celebrate by declaring your God stories of testimony and how this study has impacted your life; share in reflective Communion together; and, to Commission each one who will commit to their call to strategic focused prayer and evangelistic action, following this study.

OPENER

1. Ask if anyone has ever been physically burned by fire or had something of theirs destroyed by fire. Use one word adjectives to describe that experience.

2. Play Refiners Fire for group from a CD, DVD or YouTube.

3. Ask: What is the difference between a destructive fire and a refiner’s fire?

4. Say: Reflect on these questions. Think of someone (not Jesus) who has inspired you the most in your life. What is different in your life because of his or her influence? Tell the group in one sentence how that person was able to have that kind of impact on you?

STUDY

1. Kingdom Advance
   a. Have someone read Pages 198-201.
   b. Have someone else read Flames of Revival on Pages 66-69.
   c. From the revelations God gave us last week in our prayer walk, what might it look like to see God’s Kingdom unfold in your domain? In your city/community?

2. Identifying Your Sphere Of influence
   a. During Week #7 we were asked to identify our top domain of influence. Turn to Page 202 again and re-read the left column.
   b. What would be some clear indicators that God is currently providing breakthrough answers of prayer in each of these spheres of influence in our city? If none, why might that be?
   c. Have each person in the group indicate where they most desire and long to see God break through.
3. **How To Measure Breakthrough**
   a. On Pages 204-211, there are five levels of breakthrough identified. They include the degree of surrender and resulting change in your life and the way you interact with other believers, your church and your community.
   b. Why is it so important to die to self if you want to see breakthrough in your city?
   c. How would you rate the relational unity level in your study group? Is there any hindrance preventing development? What would need to change? What about at church?
   d. Have everyone close their eyes and breathe in deeply through their nose. Using the metaphor of fragrance, what does your city/sphere of influence smell like to you?
   e. Do this again, but this time, describe the fragrance of your city when you are influencing a domain and are breathed in by others.

4. **Models Of Influence**
   a. Have someone read the first three paragraphs of Page 212.
   b. There are two ways your life can influence others for the Kingdom of God: Covertly and overtly - in other words, quietly behind the scenes and deliberately forward, with risk. Both are necessary.
   i. What is the advantage of each of these types of influence?
   ii. Of the people you know, what model do they best respond to?
   iii. What might change if you “claimed your sphere of influence for God” (Page 213)?
   iv. Ask several people to explain the difference between serving someone to get them saved and serving someone out of faithfulness to God (Page 216).
   v. Do you think a non-Christian can tell the difference between the two methods? Why?
   c. On Pages 216-222 there are several tools given to “overtly” advance the Kingdom (conversation openers, your testimony, outreach events, resources, etc.).
   i. Have several people share which method work best for them.
   ii. Have each person share three of their Top Ten from Page 223.
   iii. Discuss possible covert and overt involvement your group might sense to engage in to see Kingdom Advance in the scope of influence you share, i.e. weekly prayer, neighborhood cleanup, serving meals downtown, back yard BBQ, potluck outreach with each of your group bringing a friend and one or two of you sharing your God story, etc.

**PRAYER**

1. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4 from Page 225.
2. Ask who senses the growing necessity to increase their prayer commitment on behalf of others?
3. Ask why they believe Kingdom Advance will expand if they pray more intentionally.
4. Say: *The founding directors have prayed a prayer of blessing over us. Allow me to read it.* Read the Blessing for Your Breakthrough, Pages 224-225.
5. Choose the current week’s FACTS Verses online and use it to pray in agreement for your Top Ten and the domains they best represent in your city/community.

**ACTION**

1. Read Pages 38-53 to listen and confirm what God has been saying to you personally in these weeks of study. Journal it.
2. Write your one page testimony (use pg.219), and prepare to share it next week.
3. Complete both sides of the Evaluation Form and bring it with you next week to share some of the answers as well. It is located in the inside pocket of your book.
4. Plan a potluck meal (a meal where each participant brings one dish that is shared by everyone) as part of your wrap up for next week. Decide who will bring what.
WEEK #10:

CELEBRATE! COMMUNION & COMMISSION

PREPARATION
1. The intent of week #10 is to Celebrate by telling God Stories of how this study has impacted your lives, share a reflective Communion time and Commission one another’s determined Action Steps for follow up, i.e.:
   a. One hour of Bible based prayer each week to inquire, hear, and obey for the advance of God’s Kingdom for their sphere of influence.
   b. Plan and risk together in an overt/covert action for a shared scope of influence.
   c. Other.
2. Confirm final and necessary arrangements for a potluck meal (where each participant brings one dish that is shared by everyone).
3. Also prepare to share a communion time together arranging for the necessary elements. Play You Are A Holy God and Revival for reflection. Download a special recording: http://powertochange.com/breakthroughprayer/downloads/a-leaders-guide/.
4. Remind members to bring their written one page testimony and completed Evaluation Form this week as they will share some of their answers (complete both sides of the Evaluation Form - found in the inside pocket of their book).
5. Review Pages 242-245 and Getting Started notes from Week #1 (have a copy with you).
6. As you share your meal, direct the dialogue with the questions provided.

OPENER
1. Ask the blessing, sing one hymn or spiritual song and share your meal together.

STUDY
1. At the appropriate point during your meal say: It says in 1 Peter 3:15 in the NIV “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord [this IS what prayer is all about]. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have [this is deliberate proclamation]. But do this with gentleness and respect [this is action – overt and covert].” We want to celebrate how Christ has been set apart in our hearts through these ten weeks by sharing our answers from one of the following.
2. Ask each person to share their answers to one of the following (questions 5, 6 & 7 on the Evaluation Form):
   a. The most important discovery you have made from this study?
   b. What did you experience God saying to you personally through this study?
   c. What are you inspired to do as a result of this course?
3. Say: To be prepared to give a reason for the hope we have is to deliberately be prepared to tell our own God stories. Let’s practice that with each other. Who will begin and read their one page testimony as we continue with our meal? (Be time conscious and keep each one brief in order to hear everyone.)
4. You may want to stay around the table or regroup to another area for dessert/coffee for the rest of the study.
5. **Say:** You will remember that one of the guidelines we agreed to in the beginning was the possibility that during or after this study, individuals or our entire group might sense God’s call to become an official Breakthrough Prayer Team. We agreed to pray and ask God for His specific direction regarding this. To help us discern an answer, let’s review Pages 242-245 and the Getting Started notes. Hopefully you have had opportunity to become familiar with the website over these weeks.

6. As individuals and as a group let’s answer the following questions:
   a. Have you discovered Jesus’ presence in our prayer times?
   b. Have you experienced the joy and power of God’s Holy Spirit at work in and through our prayers of agreement over the past weeks?
   c. Has a hunger and expectation increased, with a sense of calling to continue in the joy of this kind of experience?
   d. Do you see new or greater value to **Inquire, Hear and Obey for the Advance of God’s Kingdom**?
   e. Are you willing to commit weekly to **One Hour of Prayer** for a shared scope of influence if you are called by God to do so?
   f. Do you desire to increase your skill at **Praying God’s Word** to maximize prayer and the Lordship of Christ in your life?
   g. Does anyone feel called to facilitate a **Prayer Team** like this?
   h. Does anyone feel called to help others discover and experience Jesus’ presence and power in prayer as you have?
   i. If you have answered yes to most or all of these, it may be in your best interest to register and become an official Breakthrough Prayer Team at www.breakthroughprayer.com

7. Share **Communion** using the songs **You Are A Holy God** and **Revival** for reflection.

8. **Breakthrough Prayer Ministry is God’s Idea!** It is about His Call, His Heart, His Harvest, His Team, and His Word. If He is calling you to this, you will want to respond in obedience. If He is not calling you to this you will also want to respond in obedience accordingly. Rest in knowing God’s way is perfect and guilt free!

9. **Say:** We have good reason to celebrate and to anticipate more. How has God inspired us through these weeks as we have been praying? In review of the ACTION Guideline (Pgs.240-241) where we agreed to expect God to provide opportunities to serve and encourage and act, do we hear God asking our group to engage in a specific next step? What is the overt/covert action? We mentioned ideas like a neighborhood cleanup, serving meals downtown, back yard BBQ, potluck outreach with each of us bringing a friend and one or two of us sharing our God story, etc. Decide on your next action steps together as an expansion of your faith adventure in prayer.

10. **Encourage the group to make use of the FACTS Verses from the website in their future.**

**PRAYER**

1. If there are those who are going to carry on in a weekly prayer group, lay hands on them and **Commission** them for breakthrough for where they live, work and play, to impact their sphere of influence and your city for Christ.

2. As Jesus and the disciples did when they were together, you may want to close your time by singing a song or two together and pray a blessing over each other.

3. You may also want to plan to meet again in a month or so to share ongoing God stories of what He is doing in and through your lives and prayer times.

**ACTION**

1. Collect all the **Evaluation Forms** from your group and mail them to Breakthrough Prayer Ministry, Box 300, Vancouver, BC V6C 2X3.