



**Focus** The secret to a breakthrough in any area of our lives is to pray and then obey what God tells us to do.

**Open** What book are you currently reading? What are you learning from it?

**Read** There is a simple secret in the Bible that will help us in any area of our lives where we need a breakthrough. 1 Chronicles 14:8–12 shows us how King David broke through the stronghold of his enemies, the Philistines, and defeated them in battle. David didn't lean on his own wisdom or abilities; his secret to victory was that he prayed. God wants to give us a complete breakthrough, like a dam breaking, or a door unlocking. There is no place in our lives where God cannot break through.

David's story continues in 1 Chronicles 14:13–16 when the Philistines attacked Israel again. In this new battle, David prayed again, and God gave him a different strategy for how to defeat his enemies. David's secret to victory was that he obeyed what God told him to do. It was not by David's might or power that he won, but by the help of God's Spirit. The same is true for us: we must pray *and* obey God to have a breakthrough.

Because this is Vision Weekend at Gateway, we are celebrating all that God did in our church in 2012! You can see the annual report, Every Number Has a Name, on [gatewaypeople.com](http://gatewaypeople.com). Everything that has been accomplished at Gateway Church is not because we are big or successful, but because we have prayed and obeyed what God's Spirit has led us to do.

There are five initiatives for Gateway Church in 2013 that will be funded by the Heart for the Kingdom campaign. You can read about these initiatives in the annual report:

- North Fort Worth Campus
- King's University
- myGateway interactive software
- Grand Prairie Campus
- Additional parking for two campuses

### **Talk**

1. In your own words, describe what a stronghold is. How do strongholds affect our lives and relationships?
2. Why do you think it is sometimes difficult to believe that God can break through our strongholds? How do we get faith to believe?
3. Read Luke 5:16. Even Jesus, the Son of God, prayed often. How does prayer help us break through strongholds? In addition to receiving direction from God (like David did), what happens when we spend time talking and listening to God?
4. Obedience seems like a simple concept when we are training a dog, and yet our human nature sometimes fights against obeying God. Why do you think that is? What helps us to grow in obedience?
5. In 1 Chronicles 14:13–16, God's instructions to David were unusual. Have you ever had an experience like that, where God gave you a strategy in business or your family that seemed unusual at first but brought about great results? Please tell the group about it.

### **Live**

Pastor Robert gave a prophetic message for the church and for us as individuals: "If we'll pray and obey, the place in your life where the enemy thinks he has the strongest hold is the place where God will give you a breakthrough this year."

In what area of your life do you want God to bring a breakthrough this year? Write it down. Ask a friend to be your prayer partner to believe with you for a breakthrough.

**Pray**

Thank you, Lord, that you want to give us breakthrough this year! We praise you that you are mighty and able to break through any stronghold. Please help us to grow in prayer and obedience this year, as individuals and as a church.