

*This study is targeted at groups but can also be used for individual study. You should plan on spending between 15 minutes and an hour on the material (based on your personal preference). If you're discussing it as a group, please prepare prior to your group meeting. This will give you some quality time with the Lord and will make the group discussion more productive.*

## **Break Through – *The Ripple Effect***

### **Sermon-Based Bible Study**

For the week of January 14, 2007

#### **Quick Review**

Was there one point from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged you or even confused you?

#### **My Story**

Have you ever been in a situation where

- you had something that someone else really needed?
- you were facing an overwhelming need that consumed your attention?
- you discovered it *really is* better to give than to receive?
- you have given sacrificially and been surprised by what followed?

#### **Digging Deeper**

This weekend we learned that a spiritual break through is the best kind because it impacts everything else in our lives. As we dig deeper into this idea, we're going to look at a story involving Elijah found in 1 Kings 17. Take time to read this chapter and answer the questions below.

- When the woman first met Elijah, what did she tell him she was preparing to do?
- What was the woman's response to the direction that Elijah gave her in verses 13 – 14? What do you think your response would have been?

- Who provided food for the woman and her son? How important was this to them at this time in their lives?
- What happened to the woman's son? What was her response?
- What did Elijah do? What did God do?
- What was the woman's response?
- How would you summarize the "Break Through" in this story?

### **Taking It Home**

In this story, we can see how God used both Elijah and the woman to meet the other's needs. As difficult as it is for us, God wants us to learn to cooperate with Him and His plans for our lives, ultimately trusting Him (and Him alone) to provide for our needs. This is critical if we are going to have a spiritual break through. It can sound simple, and yet few of us really live this way.

- What is one thing that is going on in your life right now that you need to give over to God, obey His instructions, and stop trying to "fix" your own way?
- What is one practical action that you can take to increase your focus on God and others and decrease your focus on yourself?
- Spend some time asking God how He wants to use you this week, this month, and even this year. Ask Him to help you focus on His plans for you more than you focus on meeting your own "needs". Is there an area of service that He's brought to your attention or a person that you know needs your help? Write down some of your thoughts.