WEEK#3: THE BORDERLAND: WHERE BREAKTHROUGH BEGINS

The "Gotta Wanna"

Big Idea: Transformation begins as we become willing to surrender to Jesus and participate in what He is doing in us.

{Outline the promised land narrative and how the Israelites missed their breakthrough as an example of how it happens}

The Promise

Genesis 15:18-21 (ESV): *18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."*

God makes a covenant (promise) with Abraham to give his offspring a certain land, and He tells them who is currently occupying the land.

Principal 1 - God has made a New Covenant with us. There are promises (fruits of the Spirit as an example) for us throughout Gods word and the enemy is in the midst of those promises working to prevent them from being realized.

But God prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies. Psalm 23:5

Borderland

Numbers 13:27-33 (ESV): *27 And they told him, "We came to the land to which you sent us. It flows with milk and honey, and **this is its fruit** (grapes). 28 **However,** the people who dwell in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large. And besides, we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the Negeb. The Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the hill country. And the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and along the Jordan."*

God already told them who would be there in Genesis 15. This is old news. God knows that the enemy is currently occupying your promised land. He wants them there. Why? To witness His power and your victory. Basically, he wants to rub their face in it. He's jealous for you!

*30 But Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and occupy it, **for we are well able to overcome it."***

Truth! How do we know? Because God made a covenant, He promised it.

31 Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people,

Lie! How do we know? Because that's not what God said.

*for they are stronger than we are." 32 So they brought to the people of Israel a **bad report***

We are very good at giving ourselves bad reports, AKA believing lies rather than believing the Good News. But its truth that sets us free.

The spies also reported that *"we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers"*. Are they looking to God? What do you seem like to yourself? Do you have a grasshopper mentality?

Principal 2 - In the physical the enemy will look scary but in the spiritual the battle has already been won and the covenant or promises simply need to be walked into. They are there for the taking just like promised land! Thank you Jesus.

The Wasteland

Numbers 14:1-4 (ESV): The People Rebel – *1 Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. 2 And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, "Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness! 3 Why is the Lord bringing us into this land, to fall by the sword? (where did that come from? Whoever said anything about falling by the sword) Our wives and our little ones will become a prey. Would it not be better for us to go back to Egypt?" 4 And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."*

This was their borderland moment and they chose the comfort of the familiar rather than the discomfort of taking the land God promised them.

Romans 1:18-19 (ESV): God's Wrath on Unrighteousness – *18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.*

Freed them from bondage, made a covenant with them, gave them a land.

Principal 3 - If we don't occupy the promised land we will remain in the wasteland.

Remember the guy Caleb who didn't buy the bad report?

Numbers 14:22-24 (ESV): *22 none of the men who have seen my glory and my signs that I did in Egypt and in the wilderness and yet have put me to the test these ten times and have not obeyed my voice, 23 shall see the land that I swore to give to their fathers. And none of those who despised me shall see it. 24 But my servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit and has followed me fully, I will bring into the land into which he went, and his descendants shall possess it.*

{Introduce the downward spiral for Israel and upward for Caleb}

If we don't break through in these borderland moments we return to the wasteland. No change, no transformation, no breakthrough and most importantly, no glorifying God. Exchanging a day at the beach for splashing around in mud puddles and being okay with it because it's all we know.

At this point there are two things that are vitally important. The Body of Christ to show you there's more than mud puddles and the Holy Spirit to give you the courage, strength and boldness to get through the Borderland.

Acts 1: 69-75 (ESV): Peter Denies Jesus – *69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." 70 But he*

denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." 71 And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." 74 Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Acts 2:22-24 (ESV): ***22*** *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—* ***23*** *this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.* ***24*** *God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*

Peter afraid and denying Jesus one minute then bold and preaching the good news the next. Everyone in the upper room hit the streets after spending time praying together and being baptized with God's Spirit.

{To the diagram: How does this apply to my life? We are all Israel}

Experience - Each one of us have gone through a different series of experiences that make up our lives. And they are all different. None of us have experienced the same exact things. Dallas Willard says that life is simply a series of experiences each unique to the individual.

Israels experience was 400 years of bondage.

In addition we come from different families with different customs and ways of life.

Worldview - This series of experiences forms how we see the world around us. Since all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (yes even grandma), lies or untruths get baked into our worldview. Lies about who we are, who God is, the world around us and so on. ***Transition zone on our diagram.***

Symptoms VS Underlying Cause.

Symptoms of believing the lies: **Galatians 5:19-21 (ESV):** *19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, 21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.*

Underlying Cause - Believing lies about who you are (identity) and who God is. And the world around you**.** In summary a faulty worldview. There are aspects of your world view that do not correspond to reality/truth.

Israel's worldview was that of slave & master. That was their normal. The same with us. Our worldview is our normal.

The thing about normal is it can be totally dysfunctional while still being familiar and comfortable. It's all we know.

Enter the Body of Christ with the Word of God. Pretty soon there are aspects of our worldview that get challenged. We begin to hear phrases like "I always thought" or "I never knew" Truths begin to confront the lies in our worldview. **We are now entering the discipleship zone and have reached the level of a spiritual child. See diagram**

Hebrews 5:13-14 (ESV): *13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

Discipleship is the process of going from milk to solid food. Steak is not anyone's first solid food. Maybe peaches or something soft but still easily digestible. But as we progress we run into truths that are hard to digest. Welcome to borderland!

{Point to the green borderland on diagram.}

We have encountered a truth. We can see some of the unhealthy patterns shaping our lives. Now we face a decision: *"Am I willing to bring what I see under the lordship of Jesus?"*

As humans we can recognize an unhealthy pattern, understand where it came from, realize that something needs to change—yet continue living the same way.

There is a step between recognizing what needs to change and responding to Jesus:

We have to become willing. This can often involve being led into uncomfortable circumstances. (See the prodigal son)

We've "gotta wanna."
The **"gotta"** recognizes: *Something needs to change.*
The **"wanna"** asks: *Am I willing to participate with Jesus in that change?*
Taking responsibility, taking up my cross, and following Jesus.

Taking responsibility does not mean everything that happened was our fault. It means owning the response that is ours to make. I may not have chosen the wound, but I can become willing to pursue healing. I may have learned this pattern from others, but I can become willing to stop defending it.

Responsibility acknowledges what is mine. Willingness opens the door to surrender.

Romans 7:15–25 (ESV): *15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ

our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Paul describes a struggle we recognize wanting to do what is right while continuing to do what we hate. There can be a painful gap between: **What I know → What I desire → What I choose → What I actually do**

Now for the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-17 (ESV): Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit - *15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper**, to be with you forever,17eventhe Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*

John 16:8 (ESV): *8 And when he comes, he will **convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:*

Conviction - There is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus but there is definitely conviction. In the prodigal son story is says that while he was eating with the pigs "he came to himself". He'd had enough. He became willing to do something different.

John 16:13-14 (ESV): *13 When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all the truth**, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.*

Guide - We need a guide for our trip through the borderland to dispel the lies. Because it is a difficult process we cannot do it on our own. While the body can come along side we cannot become willing for you.You have to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling and the help of the Holy Spirit.

So ***"Gotta Wanna"*** does not mean, *"If you wanted freedom badly enough, you would already have it."* It means bringing our desires, resistance, and weakness honestly to Him.

Sometimes willingness begins with this prayer: *"Jesus, part of me wants to change, and part of me wants to hold on. Help me become willing." TO ALLOW MY WORLDVIEW TO BE BROUGHT IN LINE WITH THE TRUTH!*

The Borderland is where a lie meets the truth. Breakthrough happens when the truth overcomes the lie.

Philippians 2:13 (ESV): *13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Philippians 2:13 reminds us that God works within us, shaping both our desire and our action. We can ask Him to change what we want, even while we take the next step of obedience. But we must also face an honest distinction:

We can want the results of transformation while resisting the process.
We may want:

- Healing without vulnerability.
- Stronger relationships without difficult conversations.
- Growth without correction.
- Freedom without surrender.
- Breakthrough without taking up our cross.

Jesus invites us to follow Him through the process. He says: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."* - **Luke 9:23**

Take up. Follow. Daily. There is a response involved. We trust Him enough to act, even when obedience feels uncomfortable.

That is the "Gotta Wanna" becoming practical.
Willingness does not require us to feel excited, confident, or unafraid. It means we are ready to respond to Jesus even while those feelings remain.
It sounds like:

- I do not know how to change, but I am willing to receive help.
- I do not like what obedience requires, but I am willing to obey.
- I am afraid of what surrender will cost, but I am willing to trust Jesus.
- I have lived this way for years, but I am willing to stop defending it.
- I cannot fix myself, but I am willing to follow Jesus as He changes me.

Recognize → Take Responsibility → Become Willing → Surrender → Obey → Transformation and Breakthrough

This is an ongoing journey. We may return to familiar struggles and discover another place where Jesus is inviting deeper surrender.

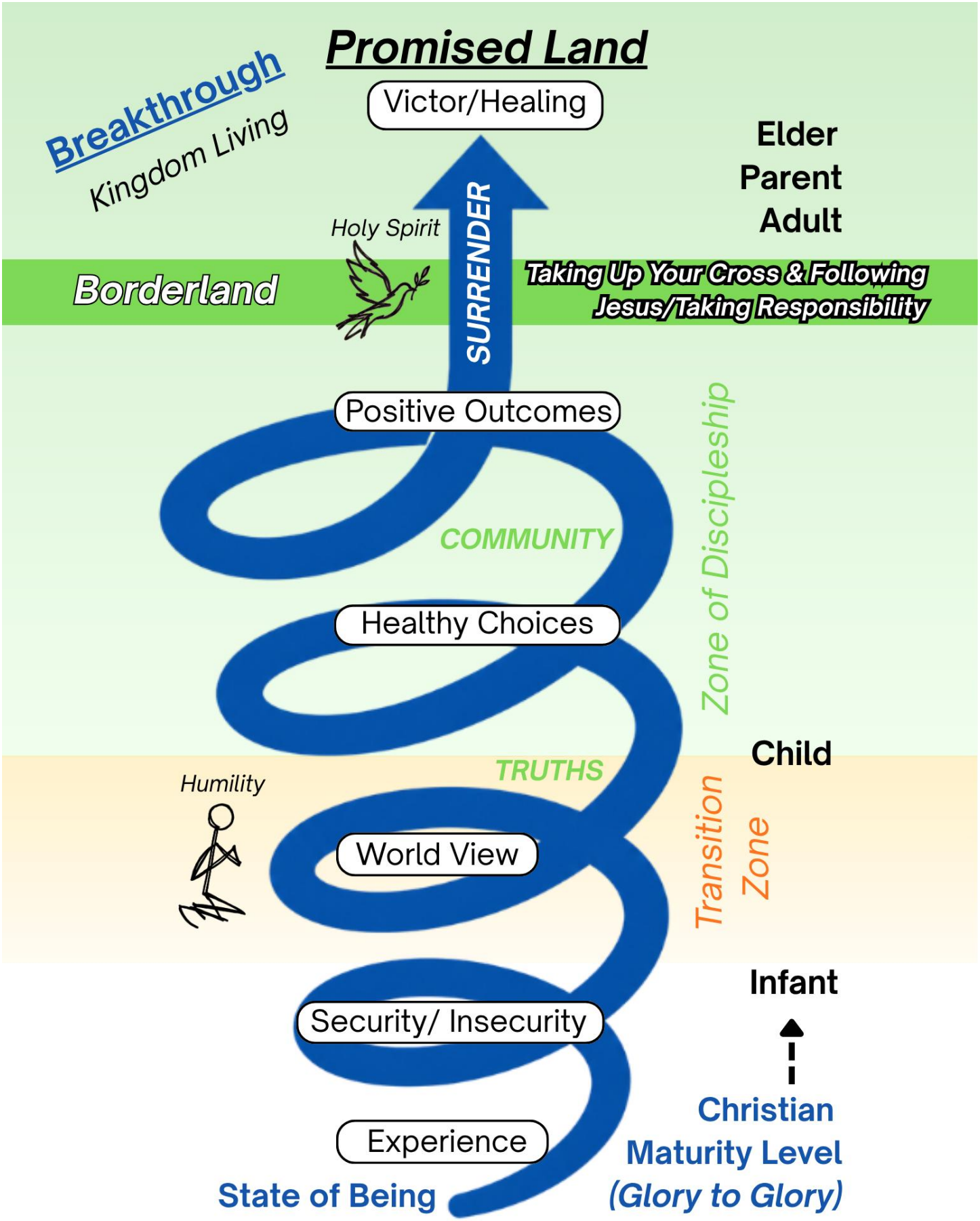
Breakthrough may begin with an apology, an honest confession, a request for help, or a different response to an old trigger.

Jesus is the One who transforms us. Our response is to become willing and follow Him.

Take a moment to consider:

1. What have I recognized but continued to defend?
2. Do I only want the outcome, or am I willing to follow Jesus through the process?
3. What is one step of obedience I can take this week?

You do not have to know every step ahead. Begin with an honest response:
"Jesus, I need You. Help me become willing. Show me the next step, and help me take it."


Promised Land
Victor/Healing
Breakthrough
Kingdom Living
Elder
Parent
Adult
Holy Spirit
SURRENDER
Borderland
Taking Up Your Cross & Following Jesus/Taking Responsibility
Positive Outcomes
COMMUNITY
Zone of Discipleship
Healthy Choices
TRUTHS
Child
Humility
World View
Transition Zone
Infant
Security/ Insecurity
Christian Maturity Level (Glory to Glory)
Experience
State of Being

Basic Wasteland Diagram

(We will be going into the details of this diagram in Week 5)

