# **ICE – BREAKER**

You might want to grab some pens and paper for this…...

Ask everyone to make a list of everything they think they’ll do tomorrow from the moment they wake up to the moment they fall asleep. Ask them to put a big black mark next to the moments they’re worried about. Invite them to reflect why they’re worried.

There are certain gateways of faith in our Christian journey that are vital to us. They are the stepping stones to help us increase our faith.

1. **The Eye Gate – you got to see differently**

*“Visual cues are the greatest catalyst of our behaviour. For this reason, a small change in what you see can lead to a big shift in what you do.”- James Clear*

Companies spend millions on advertising as they understand what you see will affect your buying habits. In the same way, what we see spiritually will affect our faith level. In 2 Kings 6 there was a story about Elisha’s servant. They were surrounded by the enemy. Elisha prayed and asked God to open his eyes, and when the servant looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. When we have our spiritual eyes opened, we will see beyond our natural circumstances.

Sometimes we can’t see because our eyes are restrained due to the stress in our lives; they can be restrained because of loss and defeat; or due to our unbelief. To overcome this, we have to:

* See His manifest presence – He is with us all along
* See the possibilities and opportunities around us
* Look up – don’t just look at the ground

One practical way to help us to gain God’s perspective is to praise and worship Him.

1. **The Mind Gate – you have to think differently**

In 2 King 6:24 – 33, the famine in Samaria was so great that a donkey’s head sold for eighty pieces of silver, and a cup of dove’s dung sold for five pieces of silver. When Elisha told the people that the situation will be changed tomorrow, they found it hard to believe, “that couldn’t happen”. Have you ever looked at a situation and thought that it is impossible? We must change our thinking from desperation to dependence; we must change our thoughts from doubting to inspiration.

Our minds are the spiritual battle fields. We need to be aware of the thoughts that come through our minds. We must change our thoughts from resentment/restlessness to restfulness.

1. **The Mouth Gate – you must speak differently.**  The officer declared – “that couldn’t happen……”. We need to speak differently and align our speech to God’s promises.

# Question:

* Looking back at the lists you wrote in the ice breaker exercise, what would it look like if you applied the different gates to the situations? What would it look like to seek God first in each of these moments?
* What would it look like to live differently as a result of what you’ve learnt from this sermon? How will you do it?