

# **I Dare You**

## **Module: Unbreakable**

### **Lesson I: Woven Together**

#### **Objectives:**

Students will:

- explore the idea that faith is not expressed/does not happen in a bubble: Faith is not just one individual meeting with God but also includes our relationships with others
- understand that life and faith are about being in community/in relationship
- consider how various relationships bring us closer to or further away from God

#### **Materials Needed:**

- ☐ Pieces of paper
- ☐ Pens or pencils
- ☐ Knitting wool or yarn cut into 6" lengths
- ☐ Bibles

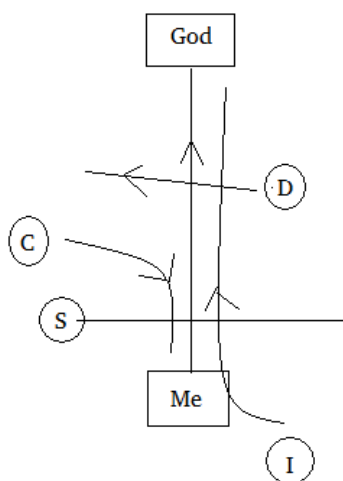
## **Minds On:**

Find some knitting wool/yarn and cut into 6" pieces. Have students either pair up or get together in small groups. Start by giving each group one piece of yarn and have them pull on either end to see if they can break it (with yarn it should break fairly easily). Next give students 2 pieces of yarn (if the first is usable for a second time around, allow them to use it again). Have them twist the two strands together and pull again (this too should break, but with more effort required). Finally, give them 3 strands and have them wind or braid them together and pull. This should be impossible to break; even if one of the strands breaks because it's weak, the other two should still hold it in place.

Say something like: each of these strands of yarn represents a person; the first strand represents you, the second represents other people you interact with and the third strand represents God. It was easy to break the first strand when it was all on its own, just like it's easy for us to fall or become broken when we try to "do" life on our own. It was harder to break the strands when there were two and that's just like life; we are able to stand under pressure and challenges when we have someone else there to support us. However, it was impossible to break the three strands woven together; just as it's nearly impossible for us to completely break when we are in relationship with God **and** others. If it's just us, or just us and others; we are much more easily weakened by the trials and temptations we face, and when it's just us and God we can get confused about what's from him and what's not, but with God and others we can face the journey of life with the greatest strength.

## **Action:**

We interact with people every day and are in many different types of relationships with those people. Our Facebook accounts, MSN contacts and cell phone contact lists show us just how many people we are connected to, and of those possibly hundreds of people there are those relationships we prize and value more than others. Even out of all those close relationships, we each have one relationship that we see as the primary relationship we value and other relationships influence it. This may be your relationship with a parent, cousin, or boyfriend/girlfriend. The Bible tells us that our primary relationship should be with God. A Christian's primary objective should be to move closer and closer to God, becoming more and more intimate/connected with Him. Yet that relationship will be affected by the other relationships in our lives. Take a look at this diagram. (copy diagram onto a large sheet of paper or onto a chalk board so the whole group can see it clearly)



“Me” is us. We are trying to move closer and closer to God. The people we’re in relationship with are represented by the other letters. We might have some people who are I’s. They inspire and encourage us in our faith, like a current helping us move towards God. S’s are those who are like a roadblock to our objective, making us stale in our faith, stopping our growth. People who are C’s can be a counter-current as they challenge us in our faith but they can also loop around and become a positive force bringing us closer to God. D’s are those people in our lives who will try and distract us from our objective, doing what they can to take us off course.

To make this more understandable, have students act out this diagram. Select one student to be “ME,” one student to be “GOD” and a few others to be S, C, D and I. S’s will do whatever they can to try and block “ME” from getting to their objective. They can put obstacles in the way or block them, whatever it takes (within reason, to keep things safe). C’s will be a counter current at first fighting against the I who is trying to help “ME” reach his/her objective. (About half way through C’s can join the side of “ME” and I, as challenges can at first pull us away from our faith but can over time draw us closer to God). D’s will try and do whatever it takes to distract “ME” along the way and get “ME” to go in another direction with them. Once students have acted this out, have them debrief the role of each character in relation to “ME”. Then hand out the “People of Influence” chart to each student. Have them fill out the chart by writing in the names of influential people in their lives from all different situations and checking or marking off which category each person falls into. See example below:

Group	I	S	C	D
School Friends				X
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bobby</li> <li>Sue</li> <li>Jeremy</li> </ul>	X		X	
Siblings				
Parents				
Extended family				
Church family				
Youth Group Friends				

When students have had about 5-10 min to fill out this chart, have them gather in small groups and discuss their most common and least common letters on their charts and what that says about how those common and least common letters might reflect positively or negatively on their relationship with God.

## **Consolidate/Debrief:**

As students are concluding their discussions about their charts, have them read Ecc 4:7-12 and answer the following questions together as a group.

1. What is the purpose of life if you're doing it all alone?
2. How can another person help us?

(Don't have to bear the burden alone, someone to share your life and wealth with, help you up when you stumble or fall)

3. What is best about "three"?
4. Why shouldn't we do life or faith alone?

Say something like: God created the world and designed it for relationship; specifically, for humanity to be in intimate relationship with Him, but also for us to be in relationship with one another. God's love for us and desire to be close to us is incomparable but God has created a way for us to be inspired, challenged and encouraged in our relationship with Him and that's through relationships with others. Life was designed for companionship, for intimacy not for isolation and loneliness. Some people say they prefer isolation, thinking they can't trust anyone, but we need to realize our purpose on this earth is not to serve ourselves, but to serve God and others; we need to be a team member, not go it alone. Close in prayer, asking God to be present in every relationship and to strengthen our relationship with Him and with others.