

## SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: Supernatural: When Prayer Invades the Natural  
 Message Title: Supernatural Endurance  
 Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers  
 Date: October 30, 2011

### **Icebreaker:**

Pastor Kevin (PK) shared the story of the emotions his son Jadon exhibited as he learned he'd have to wait until Christmas to receive something he really wants (Pirates of the Caribbean Lego Set). Waiting for something for several weeks can seem like forever in the eyes of a third grader. Can you share a time from your childhood when you desired something, like PK's son, in which you went through extreme measures to convince your parents to get you what you wanted?

### **Message Overview:**

Today's message is the third in a series of six, called *Supernatural: When Prayer Invades the Natural*. The underlying lesson in this series is: "Life's battle is physical and spiritual. I have to fight and pray. As I pray, the supernatural invades the natural. This is how I conquer!" God is asking us to raise our priority and intensity in prayer. This week, our message text is from *Joshua 14: 6-15*, where we see Caleb's persistence in waiting on God to answer his prayer.

Q: Can you endure a desert?

*"I am **still** as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the Lord promised me that day. You yourself heard then that Anakites were there and the cities were large and fortified, but the Lord helping, I will drive them out just as he said."* Joshua 14:11-12

1. Will you Dry Up, Get Soft & Stray Off?

White Board: "Know" ... (I Can't to I Caleb)

### **I Can't-----The Secret "I AM STILL"-----I Caleb (I Can!)**

(Joshua 14:11)

Dry Up	"Be Still"	Go Deeper
Get Soft	"Still Fight"	Grow Stronger
Stray Off	"Still to Go"	Get Focused

2. Will you Go Deeper, Grow Stronger & Get Focused?

### **Discussion:**

(Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion on this week's primary Message points. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self-awareness* – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!)

- Caleb was a hero of endurance; he waited 45 years for answered prayer. He is a model for us to follow in enduring the desert. God was Caleb's source of strength. Read *Isaiah 40:28-31*. What is God's promise to us, *according to Isaiah 40:28-31*, when we have to endure and are tired of waiting?
- Psalm 37:7 says *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him..."* In your Christian journey, have you ever found yourself in a desert, feeling dry, with no sense of spiritual connection? Share how Psalm 37:7 can be applied to our desert experience to regain that spiritual connection with God? (Hint: Because we lose perspective when we are spiritually dry; waiting and being still before the Lord are ways to go deeper.) Read and share the following scripture to help find God's perspective on waiting: *Psalm 38:15, Psalm 40:1, Isaiah 30:18, 1 Corinthians 4:5; Exodus 14:14; 1 Samuel 12:16*.
- Caleb's spirit got stronger (Joshua 14:11) in the midst of his desert experience. He found that "button" to press to tough it out! PK's asked us the question...Have we found our own personal "button" that fuels us to endure? Caleb got stronger by training himself and so do we. What are some ways we can train to develop that "button" of endurance? Consider the following scriptures to help find the truth: *1 John 5:14, James 5:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Psalm 6:9-10, Colossians 4:2-3*.
- PK's said to get intimate with God requires us to slow down...be still... go deeper. How would you describe your prayer life? How have you disciplined yourself to continually go deeper in your relationship with God? The following scripture references reminds us how prayer is powerful and changes things: *Conquered my enemy (Psalm 6), Gives strength to the weak (Psalm 18:32-40), The Prayer of Faith (James 5:13-15)*.
- Luke Chapter 18 tells a parable of a persistent widow. Read *Luke 18:1-8* and discuss what the key to the widow's answered prayer was. Discuss why God would do much more for us as His children. (Searching for Bible verses on love would be a good start.)
- PK shared in detail about his God prompt several years ago that resulted in a personal encounter with leadership expert John C. Maxwell, which was an amazing answer to a private prayer some years earlier. Share about an experience in which you obeyed a God prompt and later discovered God was using you and the circumstances to answer prayer (yours or someone else's).

**Wrap-Up/Close:**

Pastor Kevin encourages us to pray persistently and specifically. Luke 18:40-41 gives us an example that we should pray specifically and not give up. When you feel like giving up, know that God will not.

**Throughout the Week: (Optional)**

(Leaders: Share these optional exercises for further study and growth with your group.)

Memory Verse:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such clouds of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us".*

*(Hebrews 12:1)*

Do: Endurance

- Add one more prayer time
- Fast: Any 3 days from November 1-20 (If you are interested in participating in the 3-day fast in November, go to <http://itk.12stone.com> and click on the "Supernatural Series" to read the information about the practice of fasting)
- Training prayer: Saturday with PK: Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> @ 7-7:45 am
- Walk the Central Campus payer path. Enter from upper parking lot (Check website [itk.12stone.com](http://itk.12stone.com) for map)