

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: Supernatural
Message Title: Supernatural Protection
Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers (PK)
Date: November 13, 2011

Icebreaker:

It is the nature of our Heavenly Father to protect us. PK told the story of being prompted to pray for his six-month-old daughter at the very moment, unbeknownst to him, that she was in danger of drowning...and God rescued her by way of an attentive life guard! Do you have a story of God's awesome power of protection over you or a loved one?

Message Overview:

This week PK continued the series *Supernatural: When Prayer Invades the Natural* with a focus on three prayers of protection that we ought to pray on a regular basis:

1. Protect me from "**sifting.**"
2. Protect me from "**suffering.**"
3. Use my experiences of sifting and suffering for the **good** of another.

The stories in Luke 22:31 and Job 1:6-12 of Satan asking permission to sift Peter and Job illustrates four truths:

1. Satan has a lot of power.
2. His power needs permission.
3. Jesus has more power.
4. We need to pray.

In anticipation of the Wrap-Up/Close:

Leaders, we would fail grasp the intent of this message if all we did was discuss the message and not put it into action. Like PK said, we need to pray—not study prayer, not talk about prayer—just pray. That being said, I have written several questions that emphasize the three prayers PK taught us. My suggestion is to spend half the time discussing the three prayers, and then to spend the rest of the time with everyone on their knees simply praying for 20-30 minutes. You might want to play soft music in the background or turn the lights down low to create a reverent atmosphere. After a period of time, offer a closing prayer of thanksgiving and praise to the One who is able to protect us and supply all our needs. Finally, you might want to crank up the music for a period of worship and praise of Almighty God who is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we could ask or think!

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!)

- The first prayer of protection PK taught us to pray is "*Protect me from **sifting**.*" What is meant by **sifting**? Why is this a significant prayer? Refer to Luke 22:31, Job 1:6-12, Job 2:1-7, and Matthew 6:13
- The second prayer of protection PK taught is "*Protect me from **suffering**.*" In other words, "*Protect me from the things that would cause setback, loss, harm—that would try to take me out.*" PK contrasted the persecution of two early church leaders, James and Peter, pointing out that whereas James was executed; Peter was miraculously freed from prison by an angel...**why**? The story is worth the read: Acts 12:1-19. Do you think James' outcome might have been any different had the church been praying as earnestly for him? PK's question to us today is, "*If you knew that God would supernaturally protect (as you pray) **would you pray differently?***" Would you?
- The third prayer PK taught was in conjunction with a "what if." **What if** you have already experience sifting which resulted in a moment you wish you could take back? **What if** you have suffered loss and setback? What now? In these moments our prayer should be "*God, can you use me to serve others who are going through the same thing I did? Help me to use my very experiences for another's good.*" There is no greater encouragement than to hear how God has worked in other people's lives for good. Do you have a story of how God took a negative experience and used you to help someone else because of that experience?
- We learned from the stories of Satan asking permission to sift Peter and Job that Satan does have power, but that he has to have permission from God to use it against us. What can we do to prepare ourselves when Satan sets his sights on coming against us? Refer to Ephesians 6:10-18.

God invites us to pray; invites us to wear a path to His throne and to beg Him to move His hand on our behalf. Pray! Pray like you know you are in the Enemy's radar and you need a miracle of God to protect you, provide for you, be your everything.

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

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

To memorize: I Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Accountability partner: PK suggested finding a trusted friend with whom you can share your deepest need/area of weakness so that you can pray for one another for a period of 90 days. He suggested using your moments of temptation as a reminder to prayer for your prayer partner's areas of temptation. For James 5:16 says, "*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*"