

## **SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE**

Message Series:      **SUPERNATURAL: When prayer invades the natural**  
Message Title:        Supernatural Healing  
Speaker:               Pastor Kevin Myers  
Date:                    November 20, 2011

### **Icebreaker:**

Pastor Kevin (PK) opened this week's message with a corny joke about a wife who was told that her husband's heart condition would require her to pamper him and attend to his every need. Her prognosis: *"Honey, I'm afraid the doctor says you aren't going to make it."* Are you a good patient when you're under the weather, or can you be a whiner who needs lots of sympathy and attention? Are you a patient caretaker when your spouse or other friends and family members are sick? Or are you missing the "chicken soup and sympathy" gene?

### **Message Overview:**

The final week of our *SUPERNATURAL* series could be called "Healing 101." PK covered some basic truths about healing:

1. **The "Do Know"**
  - God is not the source of sickness (Sin is.)
  - God does supernaturally heal
  - All healing is temporary
  - God invites us to be part of healing through prayer
2. **The "Don't Know"**
  - Why God doesn't heal some
  - What God sees
3. **The "Who Knows?"**
  - God might be gracious!

The power to heal is God's. Prayer is the catalyst; it matters that we pray. The Church is called to pray over those who are sick:

*"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord."* James 5:13-14 (NIV)

### **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!)

- We know that sickness and death entered the world as the result of sin, starting with Adam and Eve disobeying God in Genesis 3. PK noted that he doesn't believe his Mom's cancer was caused directly by her own sins. We live in a world of sin, and sickness comes to us all. Still... we do have a responsibility to take care of our bodies to avoid preventable illnesses – kind of like checking the oil in our cars. Do you think you're doing a good job of taking care of your body and doing what you can to keep it healthy? What more could you be doing?
- Have you experienced supernatural healing yourself, or witnessed it close-up in the life of a friend or family member you were praying for? How did you know that it was God's power at work?
- Read James 5:14-16. God has the power to heal – He doesn't really need our help to heal, does He? Why do you think He wants us to participate in the process of healing by praying?
- We don't know why God sometimes doesn't heal, even when we pray and have faith. Read Isaiah 55:8-9 and Proverbs 3:5. Do you find those verses comforting? Can you accept that there are things we'll never be able to fully understand – at least until we're with God in heaven?
- PK stated that when we're facing illness or injury he thinks it's foolish to *only* pray and not seek medical care, and he thinks it's foolish to *only* seek medical care and not pray. Do you agree? How have you benefited from advances in medical science? Do we sometimes forget to thank God for blessings like effective medications and successful surgeries?
- Read 2 Samuel 12:15-23. David provides a great model of faith in this passage. He fervently prayed and fasted for his son's healing. When his son died, he worshipped God. He knew that God's choice not to heal his son didn't change who God was, and he accepted God's will. Do you think you would be able to accept God's "no" and worship Him under those circumstances?
- You may have been told at some point that God will always heal if we just pray and have enough faith. Does that make sense? What would the world look like if God always healed everyone who asked? How does it change the way we pray when we absolutely believe that God *can* heal, but accept that He sometimes doesn't heal and we don't really know His will in any situation?

**Wrap-Up/Close:**

Though it may seem unusual or awkward to some of us, it's normal for The Church to pray for healing for those who are sick. As James 5:16 tells us, *"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

Take time to pray for supernatural healing for any group members, friends or family who have health concerns.

You may want to close by re-capping the 6-week *SUPERNATURAL* series and asking group members which teachings have had the most impact on them (Supernatural Power, Enthusiasm, Endurance, Provision, Protection and Healing). Remember the mantra we opened the series with?

*"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!"*

How will you continue to keep the priority and intensity of prayer elevated in your life?

**Throughout the Week: (Optional)**

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

To memorize:

*"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord." James 5:13-14 (NIV)*

Thanksgiving shouldn't be just "a speed bump on the road to Christmas"! Make time for gratitude this week. Try writing a list of things to be thankful for each day this week, and turn your lists into prayers of thanksgiving!