SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE
Message Series: Unseen
Message Title: The Struggle is Real
Speaker: Kevin Queen
Date: October 30, 2016

Icebreaker:
Have you ever lost something that you looked for frantically, but couldn’t find? Did you eventually find it? If so – how did it feel to recover what was lost?

Message Overview:
Today’s message is the first in the series UNSEEN.

We live in a physical world and a spiritual world.

Two risks of the unseen: Over-emphasize the supernatural or an Under-emphasize the supernatural.

4 foundational truths to see about the unseen world.
1. You were born into a spiritual war (Eph. 6:12).
2. You have a real enemy who schemes against you (Eph. 6:11).
3. You have protection from his attack. (Eph. 6:11).
4. Your strength is in the Lord (Eph. 6:10).

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 all struggle in life (#thestruggleisreal). Pastor Kevin Queen began with a discussion about physical struggles that lead us to search for spiritual realities. We live in a seen, physical world and an unseen, spiritual world. The story that he used from the Old Testament was from 2 Kings 6:8-17. Read this in your group. Elisha said, “Don’t be afraid … Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” How might the story of Elisha and his servant make you think differently about your present struggles? KQ said, “You might be overwhelmed, but you are never outnumbered.” Do you feel this in the midst of your struggle? How does it make you feel?
- Leading a physical life in a spiritual world requires a biblical approach, because the life God calls us to requires a power that is greater than ourselves. This series will discuss the armor of God. But before we learn about the armor we will need, we have to realize where the struggle
lies. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. KQ described the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. The struggle is real, but it’s not against the physical realm. Our struggle is a spiritual one. There is a spiritual war going on. Have you ever gotten caught up in the “real world” so much that you forgot that God was with you? Have you ever felt like the neighbor’s dog that was lost, blind, and deaf – seemingly without a rescuer in sight? What helped you come back from feeling lost?

- Read John 10:10 and 1 Peter 5:8. We must understand that we have an enemy; one that steals, kills, and destroys. We are cautioned that Satan is okay with us not believing in him. His goal is not for us to believe in him, it is for us to not think about him at all. KQ said that Satan uses temptation and accusation against us. He magnifies the bait that is tempting to each of us, but he hides the consequences of the hook. He is the father of lies, and he tells us that we can sin and not be affected by it. Once we have taken the hook, he becomes the accuser. Revelation 12:10 says “he accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night.” We can be caught in a cycle of falling to temptation and feeling the shame. This could be sexual immorality, addiction, gossip, anger, jealousy, and the list goes on. Sharing how we have been brought through that struggle helps others to be strong through their struggle. Do you have a testimony of that cycle of temptation being broken in your life?

- Read Ephesians 6:11 again. Paul tells us to put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. KQ said self cannot help self. We need help from outside of our ourselves. We must put on the armor of God in order to shield ourselves from the attempts of the enemy. We need to know that our strength is not in ourselves but comes from God. Spend a few minutes in silence. Confess to God where you have been acting in your own strength and failing, and pray for his strength to overcome your weakness.

Wrap-Up/Close:

- Read Ephesians 1:18-21. Pray that God would open our eyes to see the spiritual world, so that we can see the lies of Satan and the truth of the Gospel:

Dear Heavenly Father:

It’s so easy to be stuck in the physical, to be so trapped in the urgency of the physical world that we miss the bigger picture God has for us. As we begin to see your reality, teach us how to preach truth to ourselves. Not because we are able to save ourselves, but because Jesus is able to save us. Help us to look beyond the temporary seen into the eternal unseen. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear your truth.

In Jesus Name, Amen

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

- Read Ephesians 6:10-10 each day as a morning devotional to prepare for spiritual battle.