SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: UNSEEN
Message Title: Trust God’s Truth
Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers
Date: November 6, 2016

Icebreaker:
Share a time in your life where you had one of those little battles in your mind where you had to decide to do something unselfish instead of selfish. Maybe you battled over something as small as which bowl of ice cream to take.

Message Overview:
One Question: What do you see?
One Prayer: Open my eyes to the Unseen!

Pastor Kevin began the message with the story of Elisha and his servant observing the army of Aram surrounding the city of Dothan. The servant was terrified, but Elisha asked God to open the servant’s eyes and the servant saw chariots of fire surrounding the enemy army. What God sees is reality. We live in a spiritual world that is unseen. We are spiritual beings living in a physical body. After man sinned in the Garden we lost the eyes to see the spiritual world without God’s help. As New Testament Christians we are tempted to live as atheists—as if there is no spiritual world. In Ephesians 1: 18, Paul asks God to open our eyes to see. In this series, we will be looking at the armor of God from Ephesians 6: 10-20. Over the next three weeks we will look at the three pieces and how we need them for protection:
Your Mind: Head (Helmet)
Your Emotions: Heart (Breastplate)
Your Will: Feet (Sandals).

For modern times we can use an analogy of football—the helmet, the pads, and the cleats.

Today we will look at the Helmet and how it protects our minds.
The Armor: To Trust God’s Truth.
The Attack: To Quit God’s Truth.

Satan gets in our heads. He is a liar and the father of lies. (John 8:44). PK mentioned that sometimes things even as seemingly harmless as online polls can be leading our minds astray. The polls have half truths as questions and people tend to believe the lies when the resulting answers have high percentages— they twist the truth. Ephesians 2: 8-9 tells us that we cannot earn our way to Heaven although a poll showed that the most people believe they can. When we listed to voices like this, theology becomes formed by the culture instead of God’s word. Satan uses many schemes to take our minds away from Truth.
Determine: Never Quit on the Truth!

1) In relationships, Value Others Above Yourself.
2) In all you do, You Are a Kingdom Player.

Philippians 2:3-4 tells us to put others first. We battle for healthy relationships in family, work, school, church, and our nation. If we put on the helmet and put others first, we will see these relationships improve. Selfishness destroys any team—sports, family, or our country.

PK shared a battle he had in his head over a gift of $250 that he received from a friend. After getting cash for the check, he had the thought to give it to Marcia. He battled inside his mind as he walked from the bank to the car. He then gave the money to Marcia although his emotions still felt selfish.

As Kingdom players we are God’s witnesses. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 says we are His ambassadors. God gives His message to the world through us. He puts us in places where He wants us to tell others about Jesus. Sometimes we get off the field and onto the bench when we feel discouraged in our struggles. Other times, even though we are still on the field, we get off into the stands when we get distracted by our success. We can feel comfortable in our success and begin to think that God is not as important. We come to the game (church) for entertainment that is all about “me.” We must never quit on the Truth. We must put on our helmets every day and keep them on to continually remind ourselves that it is about others.

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 leaders, 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!)

- Share an area in your life where you struggle with discouragement. What truth do you need to take into account here? (Read aloud John 16:33 and Colossians 3:1-4)
- Share a time where you did not listen to the enemy’s lies but instead remembered God’s truth and you were able to walk in victory.
- Do you have someone in your life who can pray for God to open your eyes to see what God sees when you are struggling with what is visible? If so, send that person a note this week and tell them how you appreciate them. Tell the group briefly about that person.
- Many times the lies that the evil one tells us in our heads are about our identity. They can be said in first person singular (I) to be even more deceiving. It is easy to think these self-degrading thoughts are from ourselves and not the enemy. What is the most common lie from the evil one that you hear in your head about yourself? (Examples: “I’m all alone,” “I can’t do anything right,” “Nobody loves me,” “Nobody understands me,” “I’m stupid...”)

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• **Wrap-Up/Closing:** Consider whether you are discouraged or distracted. What steps do you need to take in order to come back to God’s Truth? Who can help you? Where do you need to put on the helmet to protect your mind and Trust the Truth?

**Throughout the Week: (Optional)**

Find a picture of a football helmet for a team you like and put it on the front of your phone for a while to remind you to keep your spiritual helmet on. Memorize Philippians 2:3-4

Go back and re-read all the scriptures from this message.