

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Series: Weird Stuff in the Bible
Title: Week 1
Speaker: Sean Myers
Date: July 9, 2017

Message Overview:

Welcome to the first week of the Weird Stuff in the Bible series!

In our lives, weird is often defined as things we don't understand. In this series, we are going to lean into some of the things in the bible that we may not understand in order to make God's Word more accessible to us. The bible is rich with guidance when we allow ourselves to explore the things we don't understand.

Icebreaker:

When was the last time you lost something that really drove you nuts as you desperately searched for it? Did you ever find it?

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!)

God knows how to help you find what you didn't mean to lose. We can lose things spiritually in our lives, just like we can lose material things. Most often, we don't mean to lose it, but somehow it happens. God can help us find what we didn't mean to lose.

Sean defines "spiritual edge" as passion, love, intention, and ability in all areas of our spiritual life. Leaning into the weird can help us regain our spiritual edge. In 2 Kings, there is a story about an axe head.

- Read this story about a group of prophets, led by Elisha. **Read 2 Kings 6: 1-7 aloud.**

Sean says the key passage is in verse 5, when the scripture says "it was borrowed." Iron was extremely valuable in that time, and the young prophet had no way of replacing the axe head. The young prophet's "edge" was borrowed, and so are you and I.

- **1 Corinthians 6: 19-20** *Don't you realize that your body is a temple of the holy spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.*
- We are bought with a price by Jesus, and we are living on borrowed time. If we lose our spiritual edge, we become less useful to God. In your own life, what are some specific ways you define losing your spiritual edge?

There is a three step process to getting our edge back.

1. **Step one – CRY out to God.** The young prophet cried out to God. He hoped God would supernaturally give him the edge back; he knew it was beyond his own strength.
 - In what ways do you cry out to God in your life?
 - Where are you tired? Where are you worn out in life? Where are you out of passion, or out of options?
 - What is the proof you have that God cares enough to answer your cry for help?
2. **Step two - Be honest about where you lost your edge.** We have to go back to where we lost our edge in order to get it back.
 - Is there a specific event you can recall that caused you to lose your spiritual edge?
 - How difficult is it for you to be honest with God about your frustrations?
 - Sean mentions the importance of iron sharpening and using other people for accountability. Do you have a person or group in your life who helps you to keep your spiritual edge?
3. **Step three – With God's help, take back what you lost.**
 - In our discussion today, what area of your life have you identified as a place where you want to get your edge back?
 - What act of obedience helped you, or can help you, to get your edge back?
 - How do you keep your passion for God strong in your own life?

Wrap-Up/Close:

God knows how to help us find what we didn't mean to lose. When we cry out to God for help, He will help us find what is lost. Let's not settle for dull. Let's strive for sharpness.

Close in Prayer

Pray that God will guide us in finding what we lost. Each group member should identify a specific area of prayer where they are crying out to God to help, and as a group, we will support one another in prayer in the weeks ahead.

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

- Sean suggested journaling about the areas of our life where we are frustrated or have lost our edge. This week, try journaling about your emotions as a way of surrendering your own power and crying out to God in your time of need.
- Identify a person or group to meet with on a regular basis who are willing to help you keep your edge spiritually. Commit to a regular schedule and format for your meetings.