

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Message Title: Easter 2017
Speaker: Pastor Kevin Myers
Date: April 14-16, 2017

Icebreaker:

Have you ever scripted a plan but later realized there was a plan bigger than your own?

Message Overview:

Today's message gave us an overview of Ernie Johnson, Jr.'s story from his new book *Unscripted*. Pastor Kevin will interact more with Ernie's story over the next three weeks. PK introduced the idea of life going off script. We all have dreams. We all have ideals. We all have goals. But, we would all agree that life doesn't always seem to go as planned. So what do you do when life goes off script?

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!)

Read Matthew 16: 21-22. In these verses, Jesus explained to the disciples how he would die. Peter's response was to argue that Jesus shouldn't die on a cross—that script didn't follow his plan nor the disciples' plan. Jesus corrected him and flipped the script. The Scribes and Pharisees (religious leaders) said that Jesus should die on a cross but wouldn't rise from the dead, but He did. Jesus flipped the script on them as well.

- How do you know the difference between your script and God's?
- Have you ever had a plan for your career, family, relationships, health, or other area of life where the script was flipped? Are you still following the script you wrote, or have you switched to following God's script?

Ernie shared a story about his script before he became a Christian. Though he may have said he was defined by being a husband and father, the truth was "Who I am is what I do." His job defined who he was. When he and Cheryl started attending church, he began to hear about God's script and how it differed from his. Instead of believing that he was the provider, work was his purpose, and happiness was the pursuit, Ernie was challenged to discover that God is the provider, there is a plan bigger than our own—greater than our own script, He gives us purpose, and we could be pursuing wholeness.

What are your answers to the questions posed by PK and Ernie:

- Who is your provider?
- Are you aware of a plan bigger than your own?
- What is your purpose?
- What are you pursuing—happiness or wholeness?

Like Ernie, you may be off God’s script. Do you feel that you need prayer or accountability in one or more of these areas? How can your group help you?

Read John 3:1-21. At a meeting at O’Charley’s, PK advised Ernie that he was a prayer away from living a different script—God’s script. Jesus told Nicodemus that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again. Ernie prayed with PK and he stated that day, December 10, 1997, was his spiritual birthday (<https://www.12stone.com/ernies-spiritual-birthday-gift>).

Can you remember the time when you moved from living a me-centered life to a Jesus-centered life, as Ernie described it? Do you have a spiritual birthday?

Read Luke 24:44-52. Jesus explained how he was the fulfillment of Scripture. God’s script for Jesus and for you is found in **Scripture**. PK reviewed the *Puzzled by the Bible* teaching.



PK went through this mirror image of Scripture very quickly. If you haven’t heard the entire “script,” you are encouraged to review the teaching at [12stone.com/puzzled](https://www.12stone.com/puzzled). The idea behind PK’s review of Scripture was to demonstrate God’s script: His planning and fulfillment of His plan through Jesus.

Are you puzzled by the Bible? How can you discover God’s script in Scripture?

Wrap-Up/Close:

Every service at 12Stone on Easter weekend ended with PK's offer for everyone to pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father,

I believe you created me. But my sin has separated me from you. Please forgive me through the work of Jesus. Restore me to being your child as I now commit to follow you as Lord of my life. Thank you for eternal life.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Have you prayed this prayer or something like it? Did anyone you know pray the prayer this Easter?

Perhaps you are in a place where you are praising God for creating you for a specific purpose, on purpose, and you have joined God in his story. Like David in Psalm 139, you are rejoicing that you are who and where he created you to be. If this is where you found yourself this Easter, how can you encourage others in the group by sharing about how God is writing your script?

Or maybe you are questioning God's active involvement in your story. Is there an area where you need to see God move in your life? Is there something you'd like him to re-write? Can you share with the group so that we can pray for and encourage you?

Throughout the Week: (Optional)

Each day, begin with a prayer acknowledging God as provider, asking him to show you the plan and purpose that he has for you, and decide in your heart and through your actions that you will pursue wholeness.

Invite someone to the Unscripted series.