

Weekend Message Small Group Study

- complementing the sermon given at St. Paul on **11/14/15-11/15/15**.
- a meeting agenda organized per St. Paul core values
- estimated for a 90-minute meeting

Theme: Guardian Angels

Equipping “the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”—Eph. 4:12

Below is a tool to help delegate the leading/facilitating of meeting components between different small group members.

	Prayer (p.3)	Outreach (p.3)	Word of God (p.2)	Equipping (p. 4)	Worship - Our Redemption Response - (p.1)
Study component leader					

Prayer leader – Leads group prayer time

Outreach leader – Leads the charge of outreach (serving, inviting, filling the empty chair, etc.)

Word of God leader – Leads the Bible study time, encourages application of God’s Word to life

Equipping Leader – Coordinates and reminds who will lead the different meeting components.

Worship (Our Redemption Response) Leader – Leads worship time during meeting.

Worship – *Our Redemption Response*

5 minutes

Takes turns reading Psalm 91 (NLT).

¹ Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² This I declare about the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
he is my God, and I trust him.

³ For he will rescue you from every trap
and protect you from deadly disease.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers.
He will shelter you with his wings.
His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

⁵ Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,
nor the arrow that flies in the day.

⁶ Do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness,
nor the disaster that strikes at midday.

⁷ Though a thousand fall at your side,
though ten thousand are dying around you,
these evils will not touch you.

- ⁸ Just open your eyes,
and see how the wicked are punished.
- ⁹ If you make the Lord your refuge,
if you make the Most High your shelter,
- ¹⁰ no evil will conquer you;
no plague will come near your home.
- ¹¹ For he will order his angels
to protect you wherever you go.
- ¹² They will hold you up with their hands
so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.
- ¹³ You will trample upon lions and cobras;
you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!
- ¹⁴ The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me.
I will protect those who trust in my name.
- ¹⁵ When they call on me, I will answer;
I will be with them in trouble.
I will rescue and honor them.
- ¹⁶ I will reward them with a long life
and give them my salvation."

Worship champion to close in prayer.

Word of God

45 minutes

1. How did you SEE God at work in your life this week?
2. What has God been teaching you in HIS WORD?
3. Read the following excerpt from Billy Grahams' *Angels*:

The Reverend John G. Paton, pioneer missionary in the New Hebrides Islands, told a thrilling story involving the protective care of angels. Hostile natives surrounded his mission headquarters one night, intent on burning the Patons out and killing them. John Paton and his wife prayed all during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them. When daylight came they were amazed to see that, unaccountably, the attackers had left. They thanked God for delivering them.

A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Jesus Christ, and Mr. Paton, remembering what had happened, asked the chief what had kept him and his men from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, "Who were all those men you had with you there?" The missionary answered, "There were no men there; just my wife and I." The chief argued that they had seen many men standing guard - hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords in their hands. They seemed to circle the mission station so that the natives were afraid to attack. Only then did Mr. Paton realize that God had sent His angels to protect them. The chief agreed that there was no other explanation. Could it be that

God had sent a legion of angels to protect His servants, whose lives were being endangered?"

What can we learn from John Paton's experience?

4. Read the following accounts:

- 1) Look back in the meetings worship component to Psalm 91:9-11.
- 2) Matthew 18:10 (NIV) – "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

What do you make of angels? Are guardian angels real?

5. Paul reminds us in Ephesians 6:12, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." What does this mean to you? How does the thought of guardian angels impact your spiritual/prayer life?

Outreach

15 minutes

To whom may we ask God in prayer to send His guardian angels?

To whom may you be guardian angel-like to?

To whom may God be sending you to protect?

How may God sending you in this way deliver the message of the good news of Jesus Christ?

Prayer

20 minutes

In your triads, share a prayer request based on what was discussed during this meeting's *Word of God* and/or *Outreach* time. What is that next step in your faith life God is calling you to make? What convicted you from God's Word and/or our discussion of His Word? Please also share a way in which the group may support/encourage you regarding what you've shared. Of course other important matters can be prayed about as well. After all have shared, pray for the person on your left (whether aloud or silently). Pray together in popcorn style (as opposed to going in order around a circle.)

Equipping *for coordinating next week's meeting...*

5 minutes

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