



WK 1 CC CONNECT GROUP STUDY //

Date: Week Beginning 04.02.18

Topic: “Series Intro & Overview”

Text: **John 4:24** - “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

STUDY 1 // INTRODUCTION

‘The Invisible Realm’ series seeks to provide a biblical perspective of the supernatural and the practice of Christian mysticism. **Miriam Webster Dictionary** defines **mysticism** as: *the belief that direct knowledge of God, spiritual truth, or ultimate reality can be attained through subjective experience (such as intuition or insight)*

This first study is an introduction and overview for our nine week series looking at the spiritual dimension and how it pertains to us as Christians in Batemans Bay in 2018. Cross Central is a Pentecostal church (a member of the Australian Christian Churches - formerly Assemblies Of God). Our history can be traced to the Azusa Street Revival from 1906-15, which was characterised by spiritual experiences accompanied with testimonies of physical healing **miracles**, worship services and **speaking in tongues**.

Cross Central has four core values which serve as guiding principles defining our ministry and culture: **Believe Belong Become Beyond**.

This series will endeavour to clearly articulate what we as a church **believe** about the unseen realm, and how it interacts with our journey as disciples of Jesus.

BEING AWARE OF THE EDGES //

As you participate in this connect group, please be mindful that we all come from different experiences when it pertains to the topic of the supernatural. I would encourage people to be open to how God would speak to us through the following weeks together in this group. The extreme edges of this topic I have called ‘**super-spiro**’ (*everything is always spiritually motivated*) and ‘**super-neutral**’ (nothing is ever spiritually connected).

We each have a leaning towards either ends of this spectrum. Please be aware of your own tendencies, so we can grow together in the love of Christ and the unity of the Spirit.

SUNDAY SERMON PERSONAL //

Whether you were at Cross Central on Sunday, or you watched the sermon on our youtube channel, what are some discussion points that stuck out to you, that you would like to share with the group?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SCRIPTURE READING & DISCUSSION // JOHN 4:1-30

Read & Discuss John 4:1-6

What are the circumstances surrounding the beginning of this passage?
Why did Jesus leave Judea?
Why did He stop in Samaria?
Does it appear to be a supernatural situation? Why or why not?

Read & Discuss John 4:7-10

Why was the woman surprised at Jesus' question?
What is interesting to you about Jesus' answer to the woman?

Read & Discuss John 4:11-14

How is Jesus transitioning His conversation from a natural thirst to a supernatural thirst?
How can we apply this to our everyday conversations?

Read & Discuss John 4:15-18

What is the nature of Jesus' discussion with the Samaritan now?
What lessons can we learn about the invisible realm?

Read & Discuss John 4:19-24

What stands out to you in this passage?
How does Jesus describe God?
Compare and contrast the qualities of 'spirit' and 'truth'. What does this reveal about the supernatural?

Read & Discuss John 4:25-30

What is supernatural vs natural in this account? How does this affect your perspective of the spiritual dimension?

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION //

1. What are your limiting beliefs about the supernatural and where do they come from?
2. Share your definition of the supernatural. How have you experienced this in your spiritual walk?
3. What Scripture verses or Bible passages help you to understand the spiritual realm.

SERIES OBJECTIVES //

These are our four main goals for this series. Please be praying that God would give us the grace and wisdom to pursue His purpose:

1. **Reinforce and teach our Cross Central value of 'BELIEVE'**
2. **Provide our people with a Biblical perspective of the supernatural.**
3. **Raise our awareness and engagement in practical spiritual disciplines.**
4. **Actively deploy our God given spirituality as followers of Christ.**

PRAYING FOR YOU THIS WEEK //

How can I pray for you this week?
