



UNSEEN: PART 1

Forrest Jenan – February 14, 2016

There is no growth without some sort of disruption or disorientation. My prayer for your groups is that we begin to become a little disoriented. There may be times through this series where you as a leader may not have all the answers. Good. Our hope is that as we move our rows to circles, we leave the quest for certainty behind. This is a series where we can humbly grow together into a community of love as we engage an often-troubling unseen world.

HANG OUT (warming up to the topic)

1. What are some initial thoughts that come to mind when words like angels, demons, heaven, hell, and Satan come up?

HEAR (listening to God through Scripture)

2. Read Genesis 28:12, 16-17, and then John 1:50-51
3. After reading the story of Jacob catching a glimpse of the unseen and seen world colliding, we find Jesus giving his own declaration of being this manifestation in the flesh. What are some practical ways Neighborhood can be an extension of this reality? How can we partake in being tiny “disruptions” in our world?
4. Forrest also mentioned that the unseen world does not just impact us physically, but also relationally. How might the unseen world affect our relationship with friends, family, and even strangers?
5. Have you found yourself resistant to the idea of an unseen world? Why or why not?

Leaders Notes: A couple of big ideas from the teaching to keep in mind

- Feel free to remind your group of our values at Neighborhood: **Grace, Inclusion, Authenticity, Restoration, and Transformation**. How can we take a posture in this series that reflects these values?
- It is helpful to remember the analogy of the unseen germ world, and its effect on the seen world when beginning to dive deeper into these topics. This unseen world can affect every part of our seen world.
- Our culture tends to dismiss the reality of an unseen world. Why might that be?
- Remember that this first teaching is rooted in how we can humbly face such a diverse and confusing topic. Patience and peace are the two most important factors of this posture.



HUDDLE (making it personal and praying together)

6. Have you had any personal experience with the unseen world that you have trouble “making sense” of?
7. How can we encourage one another to take a humble posture as we journey through the unseen world in these next few weeks?
8. How do you plan to utilize the “Unseen Series Toolbox?”
9. End by praying for one another.

STUCK? (Feel free to read the below quotes to encourage discussion)

“The great freedom and frustration of following Jesus is that the forms of this faith are open to diversity. You have to deal with that if you want to follow the way of Jesus,” – Bruxy Cavey

“It is the logician who seeks to get the heavens into his head. And it is head that splits.” – GK Chesterton

“God is not always silent, and man is not always blind. In every man’s life there are moments when there is a lifting of the veil at the horizon of the known, opening a sight of the eternal. Each of us has at least once in his life experienced the momentous reality of God. Each of us has once caught a glimpse of the beauty, peace and power that flow through the souls of those who are devoted to Him. But such experiences are rare events. To some people they are like shooting stars, passing and unremembered. In others they kindle a light that is never quenched. The remembrance of that experience and the loyalty to the response of that moment are the forces that sustain our faith. In this sense, *faith is faithfulness*, loyalty to an event, loyalty to our response.” – Abraham Joshua Heschel (**Lifting the Veil**)