

The background features a dark, rich purple and blue color palette with intricate, ornate scrollwork and floral patterns. A large, white, stylized banner with a marbled texture is draped across the upper half of the page, framing the title. The banner has elegant, flowing curves and a central loop.

# SUPERNATURAL

tvbf

Tove Valley Baptist Fellowship

Home Group Study Guide

# SUPERNATURAL

## Series Introduction

This series is designed to allow us to reflect on some common but difficult questions based on spiritual matters. We are only touching on a few biblical responses to those questions in the time available but hopefully deep enough to give understanding and appreciation for matters we don't often think about.

The topics in the guide are not in the same order as the talks because the order of the talks is dependent on those speaking so you will have to find the relevant week. The ability to answer the questions are not dependant on the talk the preceding Sunday so everyone should be able to contribute if they haven't heard the talk, although it will be available on our website.

There are a set of small Bible passages for which questions are framed, there are additional Bible references given in the questions can be used in your discussions. You may not always answer every question; there may be other questions you think about as a group which is fine.

There are some difficult topics, not that we should shy away from them. We do not expect you, as home group leaders, to be experts on these topics, nor to know all the answers to the questions in this guide of asked during the study. It is ok to say, "I Don't know".

The topics may bring up concerns and issues that may need to be addressed – if any safeguarding concerns arise, please contact Melanie Whitlock , if you become aware of any pastoral issues or theological misunderstandings please get in touch with Stuart or one of the Elders for support.

# SUPERNATURAL

## Is There a Supernatural Realm?

1. What examples of the supernatural can you think of?
2. Do you think we take the supernatural seriously?
3. What experiences have you had that cause you to believe in the reality of the spiritual realm?
4. How do you feel about being surrounded by supernatural forces?

Read Acts 8:14-17

5. In what ways is God active in sustaining and interacting with the world?
6. What is your understanding on the role of the Holy spirit in our lives?
7. Have you seen or experienced the Holy Spirit?

Read John 12:20-29

8. Can we be dismissive of supernatural events as in verse 29?
9. What could be the danger of ignoring or dismissing the supernatural?
10. Can we be guilty of thinking too much of the spiritual realm?

Read Matthew 17:1-3

11. What does this passage say about Jesus?
12. How does this help us understand the role of the supernatural in our faith (e.g. signs, transformation, interaction)
13. What questions might you have about the supernatural?

# SUPERNATURAL

## Why Can't We See the Spiritual Realm?

1. What Christian activities involve the supernatural?
2. In what ways does the supernatural realm interact with the physical realm?

Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5

3. Which of these actions in the passage would you consider a supernatural influence?
4. Is there a way to know when an action is supernatural or physical?

Read Acts 2:1-4

5. How does the Holy Spirit reveal himself in the physical?
6. What is the evidence of the Holy Spirit in those gathered?
7. What evidence of the Holy Spirit do we see in our lives, and in church?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9

8. Satan also can interact with the physical world – what does this verse say about his methods?
9. Do you think we are alert to the dangers of the supernatural?

Read Romans 8:38-39

10. Has your view changed of the role of the supernatural in your faith?
11. What confidence do you gain from this passage when thinking about the dangers of the supernatural?

# SUPERNATURAL

## Can We Communicate with the Spiritual Realm?

1. What does it look like to be superstitious?

Read Deut. 18:9-12

2. What do you see in the world today that makes these verses relevant?
3. What practices of the occult are you aware of?
4. Why do we think people get involved in these things (1 Tim 4:1)
5. What makes these practices dangerous?
6. Is it harmless to read horoscopes?
7. How can we help each other to avoid occult behaviours (1 John 4:1)?

Read Col 2:18-19

8. Who is the head in v19 that we can lose connection to?
9. What do these verses suggest about our worship and prayer?
10. Who should we pray to, and therefore who should we not pray to?

Read 1 John 4:1-6

11. What viewpoints of the world can distract us?
12. How do we know if revelation is from God or other sources?
13. Can you describe a time you have heard from God?
14. What comfort can we gain from the truth that “God listens to us”(v6)?

# SUPERNATURAL

## How Can We have a relationship with a divine God?

1. What does it mean to have a relationship with someone?
2. What do we gain from having relationships?
3. What do we offer in relationships?

Read Matthew 3:16-17

4. What do these verse show about the trinity (Father, Son and Spirit)?
5. Do we treat Father, Son and Spirit as different persons or the same?
6. How do they demonstrate the supernatural and the physical coming together?
7. How does this help your understanding of God and who we are in relationship with?

Read Jude 17-21

8. What is the warning to us from v19?
9. Do we “have the Spirit” in our daily lives?
10. What do v20 and 21 teach us about the different roles of the trinity?
11. How should these roles effect how we come to God in our prayers and worship?

Read 2 Peter 1:16-21

12. What event is Peter describing in v16-18? (clue – Matthew 17!)
13. What experiences should we expect while in relationship with a supernatural God?
14. Why do those experiences help us in our faith?
15. How can we use these experiences to witness to Christ?
16. What does a life “carried along by the Holy Spirit (v21) look like?

# SUPERNATURAL

## Why is there Evil and Suffering in the World?

1. Can you explain what “evil” is?
2. When does a bad behaviour become evil?
3. If God is loving, why does he allow evil and suffering in the world?
4. Is it possible for God to allow evil to happen?

Read Exodus 4:21, Exodus 7:3 and Exodus 9:12

5. Why do you think God hardened Pharaohs’ heart?
6. Is there a difference between allowing evil and causing evil?
7. Why did God place the fruit in the garden of Eden?
8. How does free will contribute to the suffering in the world?

Read Rev 2:20-23

9. Who is saying these things?
10. What can we learn about mercy from v21?
11. What can we learn about the consequence and judgement of sin v22?
12. Is this fair?

Read Matthew 26:36-41

13. What is causing Jesus’ sorrow and trouble?
14. How do we see Jesus’ humanity in v39
15. What was the “cup” Jesus wanted to pass?
16. Why was it not possible?
17. What can v41 tell us about suffering and evil in the world?

Read James 5:7-11

18. Why do we need to be patient in our suffering?
19. How does suffering help us in our faith?
20. What is the hope we have in our suffering?
21. What is the witness of persevering in our suffering?

# SUPERNATURAL

## What happens when we Die?

1. Have you thought about your own death?
2. What do we fear about death?
3. Are these fears influenced by scripture or the world around you?

## Read Philippians 1:20-26

4. What do you think Paul means in v21?
5. Why does Paul suggest it is better to die to be with Christ?
6. What reasons does Paul give to remain alive?

## Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

7. What are the reasons that Christians do not need to grieve?
8. What truths in this passage help to comfort you?
9. What does this passage mean by the term “asleep”?
10. How does this passage clarify who will be with God for eternity?
11. What does it suggest for those who do not believe in Jesus?
12. How does this make you feel?

## Read Hebrews 9:24-28

13. Where do these verses suggest Jesus is?
14. What do you think it means for Christ to “appear for us in God’s presence”?
15. What is Jesus' purpose when he comes again?
16. What does it mean to face judgment (v27)
17. Do you feel you are eagerly waiting for Jesus? (v28 ESV)

# SUPERNATURAL

## Is there a Heaven and a Hell?

1. Is there someone who has wronged you in the past and you have had trouble forgiving them?
2. Where does this sense of right and wrong come from?

Read Rev 20:11-15

3. Have you ever thought that there will be a final judgement for believers and non-believers?
4. Does this passage give you a sense of Justice, or do you sense unfairness and injustice in this whole idea?
5. Do you believe there will be an eternal consequence for our actions?

Read John 14:1-7

6. Jesus clearly states that heaven exists. How do you feel about Jesus preparing a place for you?
7. How does Jesus clarify who he is preparing a place for?
8. How comfortable are you with the exclusivity of Jesus' claims in this passage? Do you think there is any way to know God, or share in His life without Jesus?

Read Mark 9:43-48

9. Was Jesus speaking literally to suggest cutting off body parts?
10. What does this suggest about Jesus' view of hell?
11. What might v48 suggest about eternal consequence?
12. How do these realities of final destinations shape your view of mission and witness?

# SUPERNATURAL

## Spiritual Warfare – Armour of God?

Read Eph 6:10-20

1. Why is the armour important?
2. Whose responsibility is it to put the armour on? (v11)
3. Who or what is our warfare against? (v12)
4. Is it possible to "put on" only part of the armour? (v13)
5. What does living in truth mean? (James 4:17)
6. Righteousness also means living right before God, How is this possible? (Romans 6:16-23)
7. Why is the preparation or readiness of the gospel part of our armour?
8. What's the importance of our faith ?
9. How can we determine where our thoughts are coming from? (James 3:13-18)
10. How can we make our "swords" more effective? (Hebrews 4:11-13)
11. What are the benefits of persistent (or constant) prayer ?
12. How can we be watchful of spiritual things ?
13. Would you notice if your prayer life or study of the word decreased ?
14. Are you aware of the things that Satan often uses to tempt you ?
15. What does 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8 suggest about being watchful and the role of the armour?

# SUPERNATURAL

## What about Angels and Demons?

1. What stories from the Bible can you think of that include spiritual beings?
2. What do you know about angels—what they look like, what they do, where they live, can they die, etc? What sources have influenced this knowledge?
3. What do these verses suggest about angels : (Psalm 33:6), (Matthew 22:30), (Matthew 24:36), (Luke 2:13-15), (2 Peter 2:11), (Revelation 22:8-9)
4. Are there functions that angels and humans share? In what ways are these functions different between angels and humans?

## Read Isaiah 14:12–15

5. Who is the enemy we are fighting a spiritual battle with?
6. Where did Satan and demons come from?
7. What caused them to fall
8. What does (Job 1:7) tell us about Satan's activity?
9. What can we understand about the world from (1 John 5:19)?
10. What do the following verses reveal about what demons are like? (Matthew 8:31), (Matthew 9:34), (Luke 8:35), (James 2:19), (Revelation 9:20)
11. What can we learn from these verses? (Mark 1:32), (Mark 1:39), (Matthew 4:24), (Luke 7:21)

# SUPERNATURAL

## How Can I experience Spiritual Growth?

1. Can you think of someone who you look up to in their Christian faith?
2. What is it that makes you appreciate their faith?
3. How aware of you of your spiritual nature?
4. Have you ever felt like God's child (Romans 8:16)?
5. Can you describe a time your soul was troubled (John 12:27)?
6. Have you ever felt spiritually dull?

Read 2 Cor 7:1-2

7. What does it mean to “purify ourselves” in body and spirit?
8. What are the signs when we neglect our spiritual self?
9. How do we “make room in our hearts” for others? For God?
10. When we sing songs or praise or praying, how aware do we need to be of what we are saying?
11. Do you feel you thirst for God (Psalm 42:1) in your search for spiritual growth?
12. Do you feel reading the Bible challenges you?
13. How do you see God working in your prayer life?
14. What opportunities has God given you to share your faith?

## Series Reflection

15. How have you been challenged by this series?
16. Is there anything you would change in your Christian life because of what you have learned?