

November Youth Bible Study Synopsis

Topic: "The Supernatural: Do Ghosts/Spirits dwell in this world?"
Place: Leju & Lenu Mathew's house (Yonkers, NY)
Date: Friday, November 11, 2005
Time: 7:00pm

The November Youth Bible study was held on Friday, November 11, 2005 at the residence of Leju & Lenu Mathew's house. The topic chosen for the Bible study was "The Supernatural: Do Ghosts/Spirits dwell in this world?" The Bible study started at 7:45pm. 12 youth members from both Hudson Valley and Rockland CSI Youth Fellowships were present at the Bible study. Also present was Geomon George bringing the total attendance to 13.

Ten songs were sung including "*Ubi Caritas*" before proceeding to the study. Leju Mathew began the Bible study by explaining the topic that was given to him in "Do Spirits/Ghosts dwell in this world?" Leju stated that we can approach this topic by a religious approach and a scientific/psychological approach. From a theological viewpoint, we all believe in angels. Mark 9:17 was read and we find an unclean spirit driven out of a boy and see what will happen after death. This brought the discussion to the topic of "Do spirits dwell in *this* world?" In Deuteronomy 18:10 we see that we shouldn't summon spirits. Classic example is with the Ouija boards and curious people trying to summon spirits. Leju stated that a large number of Americans believe in psychics and question whether the dead are still in this world or is it fear from human beings. Leju brought out the point about the recent movie, *Amityville Horror* which depicted an example of haunting and possession. . In the popular movie, *Exorcist*, we see that the film industry plays a role in our minds and sometimes in our lives. Leju then directed our attention to Mark 6:49 where we see Jesus Christ walking on water. There are some physical characteristics that go on including Multiple Personality Disorder and Hypnotherapy-what the mind believes the body achieves. Our fear and lack of faith has a lot to do with it. There are many superstitious believes (i.e. black cat, walking under ladder) as well.

The topic was then opened up to the floor for discussion between all those who attended. One youth member stated that if you believe something is there, you will picture it in your mind. Leju presented a scene from the Malayalam movie, *Kakakarumban* that showed the actor, Jagathi who was scared of a ghost. Another youth member raised a question that Jesus was resurrected as a Spirit and more importantly as a spiritual body but not a physical body. Another youth members stated that he read about a theory that the disciples could have been hallucinating about the resurrection. A question was posed of whether Jesus resurrected in the Body, then how could he have the spiritual body.

Geomon stated that the women were the first to see the resurrected Christ and that Christ revealed himself to them first. A youth member brought up a cultural question of "How do we as Christians combine these superstitions with our beliefs?" Another question was brought up as to how do we as Christians, transcend all this. The answer is prayer- Prayer can change everything. Geomon stated that nothing can harm us in this world if we have the power of prayer. A youth member brought up the question of "Are there ghosts then?" Leju responded by saying, in the Biblical scene, there aren't ghosts. In the Biblical sense, spirits of dead people go to be with the creator and do not dwell in this world in "haunted houses" or anywhere. It's only some cultures that aren't Christian like in Africa and other places that believe that the spirit of your ancestor will dwell in this world because a proper burial was not given or they had some unresolved issues or something. We as Christians don't have to worry about that, since the spirits of dead people are under God's control, and the spirits don't decide where they want to go and what they can do by themselves. The evil spirits mentioned in the Bible are demons and powers that are under Satan's control, not evil spirits from a dead person. Another youth member stated that if we notice in the movies, all movies show "ghosts with some sort of problem and unresolved issue." As Christians we have the power of prayer with us.

Another question was asked in “If God knows there are evil spirits in this world, why does God let bad things happen?” A youth member answered saying that people just like the blind man sinned. What exactly is the origin of the evil spirits? Several youth members stated that it is from the devil and that Satan is provoking us. Our faith ultimately will be the factor in whether or not we believe.

Afterwards, some time was spent in prayer. The following were the prayer request:

Asha: Pray for their grandfather who is having surgery soon.

Reena: Pray for her mother’s cousin who passed away recently.

Ajo: Pray for the upcoming Praise & Worship Nite hosted by Hudson Valley Youth Fellowship.

Reena: Pray for Johnson uncle of their church whose Ammachi passed away

Sanju: Pray for their friend’s sister-in-law who has been in a coma for 2 weeks.

Reena: Pray for Robin Samuel who came back from serving in Iraq.

Reena: Pray for Geomon as he is leaving for India in January.

Ajo: Pray for Blesson Mathews of Seaford CSI who is recovering from surgery.

Reena: Pray for Susan Varghese of the St. Thomas MTC who is getting married soon.

Two youth members prayed and the Bible study ended at 9:50 pm. Dinner was served by the host family and a lively game of Caroms was played afterwards.

For his Glory,

Justin Cherian
CSI HV Youth Secretary