

LOUD

YOUR SOUL IS SCREAMING... PROTECT ME

The LORD will protect you from evil; He will keep your soul. Psalms 121:7 NASB

DISCUSSION: We're all born with an innate need to be protected. Remember a time when you felt totally protected. Maybe it was in a situation within a relationship, or maybe it was in your physical surroundings. What happened? What was your response? How did that make you feel?

God's protection plan:

1. God protects me from being overcome by the power of evil

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NIV

Holy Father... protect them by the power of your name... During my time here, I protected them... I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold. "Now I am coming to you... I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. John 17:11-16 NLT

DISCUSSION: Have you ever experienced a time when you felt the presence of evil, or felt that you were in some kind of real danger? What happened? How did you respond?

DISCUSSION: How often do you consider the fact that there are evil forces around you, looking to take you down? How does it make you feel when you think about the fact that Satan would love nothing more than to destroy you? What are some practical ways you can resist him?

2. God protects me from the eternal consequences of evil

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 8:9 NIV

*"God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you... And God, in His mighty power, will make sure that you get there safely to receive it because you are trusting Him... So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here." 1 Peter 1:4-6
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DISCUSSION: Being saved from wrath and destruction should produce worship in the believer. How often do you thank God for saving you? Where do you feel you would be now if God hadn't rescued you and provided you with shelter?

3. God protects me from being completely destroyed by the effects of evil

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies. 2 Corinthians 4:7-8 NLT

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28 NIV

DISCUSSION: In what way is Jesus shielding you on a regular basis? How has He shielded you today? In what way is He shielding you from being “tripped-up” by the devil?

How do I receive God’s protection?

1. Invite God’s personal presence into my heart

“The Lord is near to all who call on Him.” Psalm 145:18 NIV

“Don’t worry, because I am with you. Don’t be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you. I will support you...” Isaiah 41:10 NCV

“For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, His Spirit fills us with power.” 2 Timothy 1:7 TEV

DISCUSSION: Where do your thoughts go when you find yourself in trouble? Do they go to God first?

2. Study the Bible and apply its teachings to my life.

“I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.” Psalms 32:8 NLT

DISCUSSION: What is one area of your life that you are living according to your own principles even though you know God’s are different? In the past, how has living by God’s rule for your life saved you from heartache?

3. Surround myself with his flock, the church

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd is willing to die for the sheep.” John 10:11 TEV

DISCUSSION: Recall a time when you were away from other Christians for a period of time. What happened? Why is it so important to be around others who love God as you do?

PRAYER PROJECT: Take 7-10 minutes and get quietly alone with God. Reflect back on a time or a manner in which Jesus sheltered you from the attacks of the enemy. Talk to God openly and authentically from your heart as to how you feel about that memory. If you feel like praising Him, then do it. If you have some concerns about it, then express that to Him. Be real with God about what you are feeling. (Hint: there is no right or wrong answer here. The truth is what you discover it to be). Then ask Him to what degree has that had an effect on your life in connection with your ability to trust Him.