



God's Goodness

Pastor Robert

Focus Spiritual warfare is real, but thankfully God answers prayer! God is in control, even in difficult situations.

Fun Would you rather spend a summer day at the pool or a day hiking through nature?

Review Key Scriptures: Matthew 6:8–13.

1. **Spiritual warfare is real.**

In April, Pastor Robert passed out due to internal bleeding from two torn arteries—there was no medical reason the arteries had torn. Thanks to skilled first responders and gifted doctors, his life was saved. This was a direct attack from the enemy who tries to kill, steal, and destroy. In Matthew 6, when Jesus taught us how to pray, He told us to pray daily for protection from the enemy.

2. **God answers prayer.**

When the news about Pastor Robert's health was posted on social media, people gathered in prayer all over the world. Over 340,000 people on social media joined in prayer for Pastor Robert. He lost over half his blood through internal bleeding and the doctors said there was no medical reason he should be alive, but God responds when His people pray!

3. **God is in control.**

When Pastor Robert was being taken by helicopter to the hospital, they were unable to find a pulse. He describes feeling a deep sense of peace during this trauma and also joy at the thought of meeting Jesus. When he thought about his family and the church, he knew very clearly that God would take care of them.

God lives in eternity, outside the constraints of time. He is in control of everything and will take care of us no matter what circumstance we face.

Group Dynamics Idea Pastor Robert lost over half his blood during this trial. In response, we are asking our church to give blood to Carter BloodCare this summer. This would be a great group activity! Visit carterbloodcare.org/gateway to see upcoming blood drives at Gateway or to schedule a donation at your convenience.

Discuss

1. Have you ever had a life-or-death situation that God miraculously brought you through? If so, share.
2. Have prayers and encouragement from other believers helped you through a difficult season of life? What was it like knowing people were praying for you through that difficult time?
3. People have many differing perspectives on spiritual warfare. What does the Bible say about our enemy and the way he tries to kill, steal, and destroy?
4. Pastor Robert knew God was in control, even though he almost lost his life. Can you think of a time in your own life that you knew God was in control, even though you couldn't see the outcome?
5. Are there areas of your life where you need to be reminded that God is in control? Take time to pray for one another. If you are going through a situation, consider sharing so everyone has the opportunity to support and encourage you.

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- Spiritual warfare is real.
- God answers prayer.
- God is in control.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for being with Pastor Robert, for healing him, and for saving his life. Help us remember that You are in control. We submit every area

of our lives to You. Thank You for hearing and answering our prayers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip This is the season we are looking for new leaders for the next semester. Look for other people in your group who would also be good leaders. Encourage them to step out and lead. Often, all people need to step into leadership is a little encouragement.