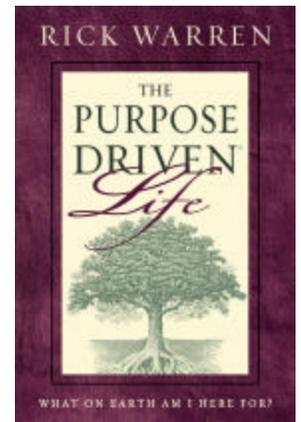




SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

Thanks to everyone who helped take sign ups this past Sunday for the 40 Days of Prayer and Purpose, which begins October 6 and ends November 14. This spiritual journey is designed to answer life's most important question: "What on earth am I here for?" The study will give us an eternal perspective and a clear picture of God's purpose for our lives. Our desire is to see spiritual transformation at The Rock. This study is not meant to be done alone, and we need to help the 3,000 plus people of our family get into a Small Group. Groups start the week of October 6, so we still need help getting people signed up!



- Who: All Small Group members
What: Get Rock members signed up for a 40 Day Group.
Where: Stop by the Small Group table on your way into service.
When: This Sunday, September 28, before and after your usual service.
How: Pick up a few sign up sheets, an np3 sticker so you are recognized as a Small Group member, and ask anyone around you if you can help them get signed up for a 40 Days of Prayer and Purpose Small Group. All completed cards should be left at the Small Group table before you leave church.

***Mandatory training for all current and new leaders this Sunday,
September 28 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary.***

***Additional materials will be distributed, so don't miss it!
Each Small Group Facilitator should bring at least one 40 Day
Facilitator to the training!***

For the week of: **September 21, 2003**

Small Group Training Update: ALL Small Group Facilitators need to be at our **mandatory** training on Sunday, September 28 at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. This is for all current Facilitators, as well as all upcoming “40 Day” Facilitators and Hosts. R.S.V.P. to melissak@therocksandiego.org or ext. 242.

40 Days of Purpose and Prayer Groups are starting in just two weeks. If you haven't already picked up The Purpose Driven Life, check with your Facilitator or stop at the Small Group table in Ministry Alley after service to pick up your copy! Day 1 reading begins October 6!

Title: Rise Up and Build Part 2, Preparation Through Prayer

MEMORY VERSE: So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven. **Nehemiah 1:4**

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. Pastor Miles prayed that the Rock family would faithfully pursue and fulfill God's calling. Do you know what God created you for? How are you taking steps to faithfully fulfill God's calling on your life?
2. Are you convinced that prayer changes things? What is your most urgent individual prayer?
3. What is the historical meaning of Nehemiah? What would the book of Nehemiah mean to Jews in Nehemiah's day?
4. How did Jerusalem come to be in the condition it was in (the wall broken down, its gates burned)?

Because of the importance of the next few months, we are going to be digging deeper into Nehemiah each week.

Nehemiah 2

1. God uses people from all walks of life to do his work - not just "pastors, preachers and ministers." Reflect on these ordinary people working in the world: Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon, Esther and Nehemiah in Persia. How does Proverbs 21:1 relate to each of these people?
2. What was a "cupbearer"? And why was he “dreadfully” afraid in verse 2?
3. When Nehemiah heard the report of Jerusalem, what did he do?
4. Nehemiah prayed and waited on God. When the opportunity came, what did he ask for?
5. How long was the trip from Sushan to Jerusalem? What did Nehemiah do upon his arrival? (Mark 6:31).
6. Who were his chief opponents?
7. Read Deut 23:3-4. What does this tell you about Tobiah?
8. Anyone can go through life as a destroyer; God called his people to be builders. What an example Nehemiah is to us! Take a minute to trace his "so" statements and see how God used him. (Verses 2:4; 2:11; 2:18; 4:6; 4:21; and, “So the wall was finished...”)
9. What was, and often still is, the first strategy of the enemy? (verse 19)
10. There are five questions we must ask ourselves about Nehemiah's success:
 - a. Do we have a burden?
 - b. Are we willing to sacrifice?
 - c. Are we patient and willing to wait?
 - d. How are we enlisting the help of others?
 - e. What is our motivation?

Have you written out the first two chapters of Nehemiah? Get out a journal and start writing!

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”
1 Thessalonians 5:11