

S M A L L G R O P Q U E S T I O N S

Miles McPherson
Cult Fiction, Part I
June 11-12, 2005

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Miles Ahead Dinner and Celebrity Golf Tournament: Be the first to see *Four Stories Tall*. Join us at the Miles Ahead Banquet/Auction on **Wednesday, June 21** at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines. At that event, Pastor Miles McPherson will unveil his new strategies for reaching youth for Jesus via a TV show, “*Four Stories Tall*” and a web launch. The Golf Tournament will be held Wednesday June 22 at the Maderas Golf Club in Poway. For more information, visit www.milesahead.com.

Married Couples of the Rock: Our 3rd Annual Married Couples Retreat is coming **July 15 – 17**. What unsaved couple will you invite to join us at La Quinta Resort and Spa? Stop by the Small Group table for more information or register online at: www.therocksandiego.org.

Women of the Rock: What’s Your Identity in Christ? Join us for a weekend with Nancy Stafford **August 12-14** at the Calvary Chapel Conference Center in Temecula. Registration forms available online at <http://www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/womens/>.

Tijuana House Building: Your group can come together and build a simple shelter for a family in Mexico. Put some action to your faith and plan to join us during any of the following dates: **September 10, October 29, December 3, or January 28**. For more information, contact Ed Crenshaw at 858.571.3427 or tjhousebuilding@therocksandiego.org.

Now Hiring at the Rock: Please continue to pray for our Executive Pastor candidates. There are over 30 applicants and we want God’s best for the Rock! For additional job postings, visit us online at: <http://www.therocksandiego.org/jobs-internships/>.

Memory Verse: “For many will come in My name, saying, ‘I am the Christ.’ And will deceive many.”
– Matthew 24:5-6

Purpose:

- *Learn* more about the person of Jesus
- *Understand* more deeply Jesus identity as God
- *Identify* where the teachings of cults go wrong
- Become more *equipped* to witness to people in cults.

On Sunday, Pastor Miles defined a cult as a religious group who claims compatibility with biblical Christianity, but whose doctrines and practices contradict those of the Bible. The questions this week for focus on one of the claims of Jesus, gives a taste of what it means to be compatible with Biblical Christianity, and explores what Jesus says about false teachers who contradict the Bible.

Prayer:

We have had visitors at the Rock who have claimed that we are the cult, as well as regular attendees that were once part of a cult. Pray for eyes to be opened and hearts to be softened to hear God’s truth and that our body would be better equipped to share the gospel.

Connect:

1. Do you come to church each weekend expecting to meet Jesus and learn from Him? (Is it enough to hear a great message from Pastor Miles?) Do you leave with a plan to apply what you've learned? Spend some time sharing something new you learned this weekend.
2. Similar to the, "Who is Jesus Really?" series, "Cult Fiction" will be sure to give us plenty of new information. Go around the room and share what questions you are hoping to have answered through this series (Is there a specific cult you are hoping to learn more about? Do you need to learn how to help someone get out of a cult? How do you help someone who was once involved in a cult?).

Grow:

3. **Claims of Jesus:** Read John 14:1-7. Jesus claims, "I am the Way the Truth and the Life" and that his disciples "know the way to the place where He is going." Thomas objects by saying "We do not know where you are going..." Thomas is focusing on a "geographic location" and asking for directions to get there. Jesus reminds Thomas that He came to enter into a relationship with us, rather than giving us a check list to complete to ensure our eternal life. Our faith is rooted in our relationship with Jesus.
 - a. Why is it important to make a distinction between salvation by faith in Jesus Christ and salvation by works?
 - b. Like Thomas, why is it difficult for grasp this concept?
 - c. Why are people more comfortable with salvation by works?
4. **Compatible with Biblical Christianity:** Read John 6:25-40. Jesus teaches that we can test the authenticity of religious teachings by "the Hunger Test." If what we experience fills us temporarily and we need more to be filled, it is not from God.
 - a. In what way does the Word of God satisfy you? When do you turn to it for nourishment (daily or only when you are dying of starvation?) Is there a book, chapter, or verse that you run to when you are hungry?
5. **Contradict the Bible:** Read John 10:1-18. Jesus uses the metaphor of a Shepherd and his sheep to help us understand Salvation.
 - a. What does each person/thing in the metaphor represent? Who are the sheep, the thieves and robbers, etc.?
 - b. What are the thieves and robbers stealing? Why is "stealing" an appropriate metaphor for what happens to people who are lead away by false teaching?

Live:

6. How would you explain to someone that you are saved by faith?
7. What kinds of things leave us "empty"? How would you explain to someone the difference you experience when you "feast on the Word of God?"
8. What is our responsibility to the sheep that have been stolen? Who has God put in your life that has been stolen away? What do they need to know about who Jesus is? What can you do to bring them back (pray? Confront them?) What specific step(s) will you take this week?