

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

Miles McPherson
Cult Fiction, Part 2, Jehovah's Witnesses
June 18-19, 2005

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

Annual Family BBQ Potluck: Saturday, June 25 at Coronado Beach from 10:30 AM-3:30 PM (We will be on the left side of the main lifeguard tower – look for the red balloons). All families welcome! For more information contact Moms' Ministry 619-226-7625 X313 or moms@therocksandiego.org.

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 by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”* – Ephesians 2:8-9

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.

Prayer:

This Tuesday, June 21 will be a sneak preview of the Miles Ahead documentary, *Four Stories Tall*. Please pray that people would catch the vision to reach youth with the gospel around the world and that this series will make its way into mainstream television. Pray for safety and protection of the crew and everyone involved in its production.

Note: Jehovah's Witnesses are persistent and very well trained by the Watchtower organization. Although reviewing the material presented this weekend may seem repetitive, we believe that repetition is key in retaining all we've learned in defending our faith. Do you know Scripture and how to defend the gospel as well as the Jehovah's Witnesses know how to take it and twist it to match their beliefs?

Connect:

1. Before you came to know Christ, what did you think about Christianity? Who did you believe Jesus was? How did you think one could make it to Heaven?
2. Have you ever had an experience with someone in a cult? Share your experience with that person.

Grow:

In this series, "Cult Fiction" we are studying the ways beliefs of cults differ from our belief as Christians. We learned this weekend that the beliefs of Jehovah's Witness are built on a very shaky foundation - their beliefs drastically deny what the Bible says about the identity of Jesus Christ.

3. Jehovah's Witnesses translate John 1:1 "the Word was a god" and claim that Jesus is not God. In addition to the verses Pastor Miles shared, explain why this is incorrect.
4. Take a minute to examine your sermon notes and the web resource provided to identify the differences between the Jesus of the Bible and the "Jesus" claimed by Jehovah Witness's.
5. The book of Hebrews spends a lot of time explaining who Jesus is and why He had to be fully human and fully God. Read Hebrews 1 & 3:1-6 and discuss how the beliefs of the Jehovah Witnesses contradict these scriptures.

Jehovah Witness's, like other cults and false religions, have changed the identity of Jesus Christ into someone/something that gives *them* power and control. The Jesus they have created does not require complete submission nor does He require lordship over their lives. Sometimes in our minds we "change" the identity of Jesus to meet our needs. We claim that because He has the power to change something in our lives (heal a disease, take away suffering, give us a something) he should. Maybe sometimes it is easier to believe that Jesus is not all powerful, all loving, and all knowing. Sometimes it meets our own needs to make him into something He is not - that way we can rationalize not giving Him complete control of our lives.

6. Take some time to examine your beliefs about who you expect Jesus to be in your life. Have you ever thought "But I can't trust God with this!" or felt alone in solving your problems? Have you recreated Jesus to be something He isn't?
7. Read Luke 9: 18 – 27, Luke 22: 54 – 62, John 21: 15 – 21. In what way do you identify with Peter?

Live:

8. Review the following 'cheat sheet' chart. Some Scripture references have been included to get you started, but spend some time searching the Word for additional verses that refute the JW beliefs.

For additional information, visit: <http://www.carm.org/witnesses.htm>

What to say to a Jehovah Witness...

They Say...	God Says...
There is no Trinity.	The doctrine of the Trinity is Biblically based. <i>Matthew 28:19; John 14:26; John 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2</i>
The Holy Spirit is God's impersonal active force.	The Holy Spirit is not impersonal. <i>John 14:26; John 16:13; Acts 10:19</i>
Jesus was, "Michael the archangel who became a man, Jehovah's first creation was his 'only-begotten Son' and was used by Jehovah in creating all other things."	Jesus is the Creator not a created being. <i>John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-17</i>
Jesus did not rise from the dead in his physical body.	Jesus did rise in Body. <i>Luke 24:36, 1 Corinthians. 15:3-8, John 20:24-29</i>
Jesus did not die on a cross but on a stake.	Jesus was crucified on a cross. <i>John 19:17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:18</i>
Only their church members will be saved.	Whoever believes that Jesus is Lord will be saved. <i>John 3:16, John 14:4-6, Romans 3:23-26</i>
There is no hell of fire where the wicked are punished.	All who deny Jesus as Lord will one day know first hand there is a Hell. <i>Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:44, Rev. 1:17-18; 20:10; 14-15, 21:8,</i>
Only 144,000 Jehovah's Witness go to heaven.	All who believe that Jesus is Lord will enter into Heaven, <i>John 14:1-5; 23, Matthew 16:19</i>

Taken from: <http://www.calvarychapel.com/acts/html/jw.htm>

Here are some other beliefs practiced by Jehovah's Witnesses (JW's)

- Blood transfusions are a sin
- The soul ceases to exist after death
- They refuse to vote
- They will not salute the flag
- They will not sing the "Star Spangled Banner"
- They do not celebrate Christmas or birthdays
- Their leadership will not allow them to serve in the armed forces
- Those that leave the organization are known as apostates. JW's cannot talk to them or even greet them on the street
- For many years it was taught that blacks were that color as a result of God's curse on Canaan
- Lying is part of their "theocratic war strategy." A JW can lie to someone if they are not *entitled* to know the truth
- Periodically JW doctrine will change. This is known as "new light."