

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

M i l e s M c P h e r s o n

Transformed by Faith, Part 11

"Practice Makes Perfect" Mark 14:66-72

December 10-11, 2005

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

Only 1,500 toys have been received so far! The ninth annual Miles Ahead TOYS FOR JOY is **THIS Friday, December 16!** *If every small group donated just ten toys, we would easily surpass this goal!!!*

Toys and monetary donations can be dropped off at the Rock office in Pt. Loma this week. For more information, contact Johnny Martinez at 619.223.4622 or johnnym@mileahead.com.

Care & Concern: During the winter months, we receive more calls from individuals and families needing assistance. Although we have a benevolence fund available, the needs have already greatly surpassed our available resources. If you would like to donate grocery or gas cards, or even "adopt" a family for Christmas, contact carib@therocksandiego.org or x233.

New Small Group Leader Training: If it is time for you to step up into a leadership role within small groups, join us for our New Leader Training. Two training times are available: Sunday, January 8 at 1:30 PM in the back of the sanctuary *or* Monday, January 9 at 7 PM in the Altar Call/Prayer Room. (You only need to attend one of the trainings.) To sign up, or for more information, contact carolyn@therocksandiego.org or x 247.

An Update on Israel: Spend an evening with our former Small Group Pastor, Dan Stolebarger, as he gives us an update on what is going on in Israel. Recently Pastor Dan had the opportunity to tour Gaza before the pull out, as well as being invited to the Jerusalem Summit. Join us on **Tuesday, December 27 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary** for an update on the US based Road Map to Peace and learn what you as a Christian can do for Israel today. To register, visit www.therockuniversity.org.

Pre-New Year's Event: Join us on **Friday, December 30** for a benefit dinner for the upcoming Women's Leadership Retreat. This retreat will be a weekend for the women on staff, pastor's wives, small groups, SISTERS, and Baby Rock leaders to be blessed for all they do to serve at the Rock. For just \$25 per person, you will help send our women of the Rock to this retreat at no cost to them. To register, contact karensutton@cox.net.

Romans, Part I: Have you ever wondered what happens to people who die and have never heard the gospel? What about all the "good people"? Can a Christian lose his salvation? Pastor John Leeder will take you through a verse by verse study through Romans in three, six week sessions. This class will equip you to engage a culture that believes truth is relative rather than absolute. Learn to ask people what they believe and why, then challenge their thinking with the concrete truth of God's Word. Session 1 begins **January 9** in the sanctuary. For more information, or to register, visit www.rockuniversity.org.

Join us for the screening of **Invisible Children** on Friday, December 16 at 7 PM in the Sanctuary. Come enjoy this amazing film as well as a free concert with Trevor Davis. Please don't come alone. ***Date has moved from December 9 to December 16. Our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.***

Memory Verse: "So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Mark 8:9:29

Prayer: Toys for Joy is just days away. Pray that God would be glorified through this event and many would come to know Him!



“Practice Makes Perfect” Mark 14:66-72

1.) Review the action plan you made last week to help you “live in the line.” How did it go? Where did you succeed? Where do you want to improve?

2.) Quickly summarize:

- What it means to deny Jesus
- The consequences of denial
- One of the main reasons we continue to deny Jesus

3.) Pastor Miles explained three categories of denial. What do these categories of denial “look like” in your life? In other words, what does denial look like in action?

Categories:

- 1) Denial of knowledge or ignorance – not understand
- 2) Denial of association with disciples
- 3) Denial of relationship with Jesus.

4.) Confessing Christ in our lives is the opposite of denying Christ. Consider these stories of Joshua (Joshua 24:14-27), Daniel (Daniel 6), Jesus anointment at Bethany (Mark 14:1-11) and Peter (Acts 2:14-41). What do these examples teach us about confessing Christ in our lives? What does “confessing Christ” look like in action?

5.) Use the rest of the time in your study to focus on preparing yourselves to give an answer to anyone. Use any common criticism of faith; we’ve given you a start on the criticism, “I’m a good person, I don’t need a Savior.” Be sure to include a personal experience, a factual experience, Biblical evidence when constructing your answer to common criticisms of faith.

Common Criticism: I’m a good person. I don’t need a Savior

Personal Example (What have you personally experienced that would refute this statement?):

Factual Experience (What do you observe or know to be true about the world that would refute this statement?):

Biblical Evidence (What does the Bible say about this statement?): Matthew 7:13; John 3:16, 17:3; Romans 3:22-23, 4:25, 6:23, 11:6; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 11:14; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 5:8.

6.) Everyday this next week plan time for an encounter with God. God may meet with you and reveal Himself to you at any time throughout the day; but honor Him and invite Him into your life by carving out a specific time to experience Him. You may want to read one of the following Psalms and then record the thoughts God brings to your mind in a journal. Journal about:

- What you learned about God from the Psalm
- How the Psalm applies to your life or a current situation you are facing
- Promises you want to claim from the Psalm

Use any Psalm or the any of the following:

Psalms 23, 71, 91, 92, 98, 103, 145

