

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Eternal Trust Part 2
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Men's Ministry** - Men, join us Monday evenings beginning January 15 for a 6 week study focusing on men's issues and applying biblical truths to your daily life. For more information, contact men@therocksandiego.org.
- **Mission's Conference** - Get more information on the upcoming mission trips for 2007 by attending the Mission's Conference, Saturday, January 27, 10 AM - 2 PM in the Youth Building, 9179 Aero Dr. For more information, contact missions@therocksandiego.org.
- **Altar Call Ministry** - Would you like to be part of the team who talks and prays with those who accept Christ for the first time or rededicate their lives to Him? If so, please attend our upcoming training, January 21 and 28, 1:30 PM in the Sanctuary Classroom.
- **For all other Rock events**, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MEMORY VERSE

Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. Matthew 25:16

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS - ETERNAL PLAN

One of the obvious things you see in the Bible is that God has a plan. The amazing thing about that plan is that we are a part of it. Psalm 139 tells us that God knows us intimately and that He made us with a specific design for specific reasons. On a larger scale, God created His church with a specific plan in mind too...and, again, that includes all of us who follow Jesus.

Now stop and think about that for a moment. Are you able to let that sink in a bit? Take a one minute meditation break and ask God to focus you on the fact that he has a specific plan and you are personally a part of it.

I saw a quote not too long ago that read, "God doesn't do nothing." Okay, bad grammar but completely true. God is not passively going with the flow. He is active and going for something specific in the lives of every person on earth. And He is inviting every single one of us to have a part in that.

Getting Started

In a moment, you will have a chance to talk about some of the specifics of God's plan. Before that though, let's look at our general response to the fact that God calls us to be partners with Him in what He's doing in the world.

1. What was it like for you to meditate for a minute on the fact that God has an organized, specific plan for the world and for you in particular?

2. What are some of the barriers people have when it comes to cooperating with God's plan in the world? What keeps His people from fully participating in His plan?

3. In *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren starts his book with the line, "It's not about you." What do you think that means in light of God's big picture plan for the world? Why is it important that we understand that it's not all about us?

Digging Deeper

4. Look at the verses below and talk about the people who had assignments in God's plan. What was their response to being called to be a part of God's plan?
 - a. Jeremiah 1:4-9
 - b. Exodus 3:9-11
 - c. Judges 6:11-16
 - d. Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7
 - e. John 4:34; 17:4

5. When you think about being a part of God's plan which of these people do you feel most like? Why?

6. Take a look at following verses Pastor Miles mentioned this weekend and talk about some of God's purposes. What are some of the ways that God specifically calls us to be a part of His plan? How do God's plans, revealed in these verses, translate into real-life behavior?
 - f. Ephesians 2:10

g. Matthew 28:18-20

h. Ephesians 4:11-13, 16

7. Have you ever felt God “nudging” you to do something or to be a part of a ministry in the church? Think back to that time for a moment. How did that feel? What did you do?

Bringing it Home

Let’s go back to what we said earlier, “God doesn’t do nothing.” *Do you do nothing?* God does something every moment to move closer to accomplishing His plan.

8. Go back to the list of verses in question 2 of the Digging Deeper section. What are some steps you could take personally to live out what God is asking you to do in those verses? How would your life change if you did those things?
9. There are Bible passages that talk about spiritual gifts (divine capabilities) that God gives to His people (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4). The Rock Church has a spiritual gifts test posted online that you could print out and take (Leaders, you may want to print this out and have it available for your group members):

http://www.therocksandiego.org/media/site/docs/misc/spiritual_gifts_test.pdf.

We’ve also posted a tool you can use to better understand your spiritual gift test results:

http://www.therocksandiego.org/media/site/docs/misc/spiritual_gifts_explanations.pdf.

- a. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Talk in your group for a moment about the value of a tool like this. Have any of you ever taken a test like this? How did it help you? What next steps did you take after you discovered your gifts?
10. What kind of next step do you think God is asking for from you? What one thing could you do to more fully align with God’s plan in the world? What kind of spiritual gift(s) do you think God has given you? What is holding you back from fully engaging in God’s plan?