

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Easter Weekend

Questions written by Pastor John Dehnert
April 8, 2007



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all Existing Small Group Leaders - This week is our Small Group Database Training. If you haven't signed up, here is the info: Monday, April 8, 7:30-9 PM, Tuesday, April 9, 7:30-9 PM, OR Saturday, April 14, 9:30-11 AM. Trainings held at the Ruffin Campus at 3558 Ruffin Rd. Childcare provided.

Interested in leading your own small group starting in the fall? As we move into our Pt. Loma building we anticipate many newcomers to the church and would love to offer them a small group to join. Think you might want to lead one of those? If so, come to our next Small Group Leadership Training, beginning Tuesday, May 8, 7:15 PM. It will meet for 8 Tuesdays and the purpose is to equip you to lead your own group. Can you let us know if you're interested? Contact Andy Rodgers at andyr@therocksandiego.org or 858.268.1366 x2012.

For all other Rock events, please go <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>.

MINISTRY PRAYER REQUESTS

As "small groupies," you are the heart and soul of this ministry--who better than you to lift up the Small Group Ministry in prayer? So, it's up to you, you can spend time in your small group praying for these things (weekly or occasionally), or you can pray during the week on your own time. And if you'd like to be added to our Pastor's Prayer Team(s), just let us know. John Dehnert, Mark Collins, or Paul Garrison, our small group pastors, would love your prayers! We send out a monthly email of their personal and ministry prayer requests. Just contact Andy Rodgers at andyr@therocksandiego.org. May God work through your prayers mightily!

Reaching the Lost: Hundreds of people came forward to accept Christ over the Easter Weekend at the Rock! Can you pray for their new relationship with the Lord and that they'd get plugged into a church family?

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Pray for strength, perseverance, and wisdom for small group leaders, hosts, and coaches. Pray that the group members would continue to grow in relationship with one another.

Potential Small Group Leaders: Three more weeks until our new leaders start their small groups: please keep praying for them. Also pray for our second phase of new leaders who will begin their training May 6 at the Foundations in Leadership class.

Small Group Staff: Pray for efficiency in work projects--there are so many details that go into our upcoming Small Group Sign-up Campaign; we'll definitely need the Lord's help!

The Rock Body: Can you continue praying that our weekend church population would respond to our Small Group Sign-up Campaign scheduled for April 28/29 and May 5/6. Pray that they'd find a good "group-fit."

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – DYING & LIVING...LAYING DOWN & PICKING UP

There are some things we should come back to over and over again. The message of Easter is one of those things, and it's not a complicated message but for some reason it can get muddled in our minds. Let's stop for a moment and remember again.

The events of Good Friday and Easter are about dying and living. Jesus died and then He lived again. He had to die in order for us to live in a whole new way; spiritually and eternally. But there is more to it than just that.

Some things in us need to die. If those deaths occur we create space in our lives so other things can live. That's simply the way it works. but we don't always understand that, so let's break this down a bit.

Getting Started

Let's just talk about Easter and Good Friday a bit first.

1. Did you make it to the Rock's Good Friday and Easter services; or did you attend another church's services? How was it for you? Did you hear God speaking to you? If so, what did He say?
2. What has Easter meant to you in the past? Growing up, how did your family celebrate Easter?

Digging Deeper

3. God is actually our partner in this whole dying and living process. Read the following verses and talk about how God helps us die and then live.
 - a. Romans 6:2-7
 - b. Galatians 2:20
 - c. Galatians 6:14
 - d. Ephesians 2:4-5
4. The Bible talks about the things in us that we must put to death and the things we should nurse to life. Read the verses below and make a couple of lists: the things that need to die and those things that need to live.
 - a. Romans 13:12-14

- b. Colossians 3:5-14
- c. Ephesians 4:20-32

Dying: The things that need to go	Living: The things to add

5. It's one thing to talk about dying and living and it's another thing altogether to know how to do those things. Pick a couple items from both lists and talk as a group how to either eliminate or add some of the qualities you listed. Do your best to make your suggestions practical; imagine you are offering advice. Use some of the verses below to guide some of your ideas.

- a. Romans 6:8-14
- b. Galatians 5:16
- c. Galatians 5:24

6. **Extra Credit:** "Crucified" is an interesting word selection. Think about that for a moment. What did that word mean to the first century Christians? Why do you think Paul might have selected that language instead of words like: euthanize, kill, slay, destroy, beat the tar out of, etc.?

Bringing it Home

It's very important to hear from God on this issue of "dying and living." Take a few moments with God and ask Him some key questions. On your own (to begin with) ask God these three simple questions:

7. What behaviors or attitudes in my life do you want to crucify?

8. What am I holding back on from you?

9. What do you want to birth in me?

Now take a little time and talk about your answers in the group.

You can do this. It may seem hard at first but you aren't on your own. You've been given two huge resources: the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the power of the resurrection. Read the following verse out loud to each other two or three times. Use different versions if it helps. Sit back, close your eyes and let the truth of the words soak down into your heart.

Colossians 2:13-15

***NIV** - When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.*

***The Message** - When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ's Cross.*

***New Century Version** - When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins. He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross.*