

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

How to Fight Against Sin

Questions written by Pastor Paul Garrison

June 3, 2007



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young Adult Café - Do you know a young adult who doesn't fit in your group or who can't make it because of schedule issues??? Can you refer them to the new Small Group Café for young adults? We meet Sunday nights, 5:15-6:45 PM in the Youth Center. 9179 Aero Dr., 92123 (across the parking lot from the Sanctuary).

Marriage Retreat - Join us for the 2007 Annual Marriage Retreat, June 22-24, at La Quinta Resort & Club with best selling author and featured speaker Dr. John Trent. Cost is \$285 per couple before April 29. For details, log onto www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/marriageandfamily/2007retreat. For more information about this ministry, log onto www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/marriageandfamily.

Summer Youth Camp, "Built to Survive" - One week of archery, basketball, midnight dodgeball, mixed martial arts, paintball, rock climbing, swimming, water slides, ziplines, outdoor worship, relevant Bible teaching, and more friends than you can text! Cost: \$300 (includes round trip bus transportation, lodging in cabins, 15 meals, all activities, snacks, and a camp photo). Junior High Dates: July 22-27; Senior High Dates: July 29 - August 3. For more information, contact Erika Payne at 858.268.1366 x2017

Women's Retreat - Join us in Murrieta Hot Springs, August 10-12, as we fellowship with speaker Laurie Cole and celebrate the theme "There is a Season." For more information or to register, log onto www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/womens.

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 andy@therocksandiego.org. May God work through your prayers mightily!

Reaching the Lost: Can you pray that God would continue to give you and your small group opportunities to share Jesus with those far from Him? Pray for the courage and wisdom to know how to build relationships with them.

Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups: Can you also pray for the new group leaders (courage, confidence, and wisdom in leading)? Please pray that the Lord would encourage them, especially if they have been having a low turn out to their group.

Potential Small Group Leaders: We've been averaging over 60 people for the Tuesday night Foundations in Leadership Class over the last three weeks, this is so exciting! Can you pray that they'd stick with it for the next five weeks of the class? Can you also pray that God would be preparing them to become leaders this September?

Small Group Staff: Can you continue praying for the upcoming trainings we'll be delivering over the next couple of months (preparation, materials, and that the room/sound/set-up details would come together)? Can you also pray for the new "Young Adult Café" that we kicked off a couple of Sundays ago? There was a pretty low turn out but we know that there are people who need to be there and need biblical community more than anything right now. Pray that they would find out about the café, that they would spread the word about the café and that their lives would be blessed by it.

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – HOW TO FIGHT AGAINST SIN

Text: Colossians 3:1-6

As a pastor, one of the questions I get the most from people is how to overcome a chronic sin. I mean, there are sins which we have been doing since we were children, we know they're wrong, we know they damage the people around us, but our ability to overcome it is often lacking. Sometimes, the habit/character trait is so much a part of us, we doubt there could ever be any deliverance, and we've come to justify it by saying, "This is just who I am." Most people, when they begin their discussion on becoming free from sin, they talk about the will and discipline as the central piece of overcoming sin. However, the Bible calls us to a different path in overcoming our sin, a path which relies more on the power of God than our own power. In this lesson, we're going to look at the path God has set out for us to be free from the sin in our lives. This text is the second half of a contrast between people who attempt to curve sin through rules (see Colossians 2:16-23) and the way God wants us to do it.

Getting Started

1. What is your favorite childhood memory?
2. If you're comfortable, can you tell the group about a time when you overcame a sin in your life?

Digging Deeper

3. The word repent literally means to "change your mind." That is, true repentance involves more than just a change of action; it involves a change of mind. What type of change do you think is better, external or internal? Explain your answer.
4. In verse one of our text, it says, "If then you were raised with Christ." What does it mean to be raised with Christ? What have we died to?

5. The Apostle Paul points to the reality of our spiritual resurrection as an event which has already happened. Because of this truth, the Apostle Paul argues that we should have affection for the things that have an eternal significance. How do we develop a mindset focused on heaven?
6. If our affection is on things above and our mind is focused on things of eternal significance, how does this help us to overcome sin?
7. All sin is a choice of the immediate over the eternal. Since the end of sin is death (Romans 6:23), how do we develop the ability to delay gratification in order to do what's best for our lives?

Bringing it Home

8. Verse 5 tells us to consider ourselves dead to a number of sins. Do you believe you are dead to sin? Since we are all sinners, in what way are we dead to sin? See Romans 6:21-23 and I Corinthians 15:51-58, especially 56 & 57.
9. Are there any sins you need to overcome? See James 5:16 {Note: For this question, it might be a good idea to separate into smaller groups. If you have a coed group, perhaps the men can be a group and the women the other group.}
10. During this week, pray through what it means to be dead to sin. Ask God to give you a mind of repentance.