

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The Promises of God

Questions written by Pastor Paul Garrison

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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).

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: What if you spent this week lifting up your small group leader(s) and host(s) in prayer. What are their specific needs (relationally, professionally, ministry-related, etc.)?

Potential Small Group Leaders: Can you pray that God would prompt those He'd like to be small group leaders, coaches, and hosts? We want to continue building our leadership team so that we can meet the needs of our church, especially with moving into our building in Pt. Loma and the potential to have many new people attend the church.

Small Group Staff: Can you pray for unity and wisdom as we complete our calendar planning for the rest of the year? With moving into the new building, the way we do trainings and sign-ups for small groups will reflect the way our facility is set up.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS - THE PROMISES OF GOD

Text: Psalm 37:1-7

Getting Started

1. What is your favorite board game?
2. Has there been a time when you doubted God's blessing in your life? Tell the group about that time.

Digging Deeper

All over the media today we see pictures of immense wealth and people who have gained that wealth through less than godly means. Popular television shows like *MTV Cribs* display the lavish life of people, many of whom live lives in opposition to God. Watching these shows, many of us wonder why God allows those who don't love Him to prosper. In Psalm 37, David raises this same question before God, and gives the proper perspective on how we are to trust God to bring us success.

3. Read verses 1 and 2, what lessons are there for us?
4. The last line in verse 3 in the NASB says, "Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness." Why do you think God places such an importance on faithfulness?
5. What does it mean to 'delight yourself in the Lord'? How does that look in your life today?

The promise in verse 4 is difficult for many people to accept when faced with a fallen world. How is it that God grants His people what their heart's desire, yet good people still get diseases, are poor, etc.? Well, the promise of possessing your heart's desire is real, it's literal, and through faith it can be yours. The reason we want wealth is so we can have freedom and security; the reason we want fame is so we'll be loved and thought of as important; the reason we want power is because we want security and the feeling that we're doing something significant. We look to the things of this life, money, fame, and power to bring us what we desire in our hearts. God promises to give us what we desire but through a different avenue: a relationship with Him. God gives us freedom and security by providing everything we need. He gives us love and acceptance by calling us His child, and He brings us significance by allowing us to be a part of His work. God may not give us the things we want. Instead, He gives us what lies behind our request.

6. Do you agree with what was written above? Why or why not?
7. Can you think of other desires God promises to give us if we remain faithful to Him?
8. Verse 7 calls us to rest in the Lord and to wait patiently. What does that look like practically? Talk about the tension between waiting on God and acting for ourselves.

Bringing it Home

9. What is one thing you can do this week to increase your delight in God? Is there an issue you need to resolve with Him?
10. How can other people in your group support you in drawing near to God? (Hebrews 10:24-25)