

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The Prodigal Son

Questions written by Pastor Paul Garrison

June 24, 2007



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pre-Engagement class - Looking for Mr. or Mrs. Right? Wondering if you should commit to one another for life? Let us help you bring to light some basic convictions, assumptions, expectations, priorities and more. Join us for 5 Tuesdays, July 2-30, 7:30-9 PM in the Jr. High Room. Registration is required. The class is subject to cancellation if not enough people register, so register online today at www.therocksandiego.org/ministries/marriageandfamily/preengagement.

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: As small group staff, we pray for the friendships among your groups; we pray you will develop supportive and genuine friendships that you see through the joys and challenges of life. May you be praying for each other, deepening your friendships, and displaying Christ-like love through practical deeds for one another.

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 PRODIGAL SON

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Getting Started

1. Who was your best friend growing up? What were they like?
2. Tell about a time when you knew God was close to you.

Digging Deeper

3. Read the story in Luke 15; there are two sons in the story, one who has a difficult time receiving the forgiveness and one who has a hard time forgiving. Which of the two sons do you relate to the most? Why?
4. Place yourself in the father's shoes; what are you feeling when your son essentially tells you to drop dead?
5. In the culture of Jesus' day, much of the wealth of people was found in their land, cattle, etc. When the son left his family, he likely had to sell his father's land. As a result, the consequence of his actions was felt by his family daily. Why do you think the father would give his son the inheritance? What does this reveal to us about God?
6. When the son finally comes to his senses and returns to his father, the story says that the father saw him from a distance and started to run towards him. (In that culture it was a shameful act for men to run.) What are you thinking if you are the son? Can you relate to this feeling when you've sought forgiveness from God?

7. Remember the point of this story is to show how God reacts to people who repent. So, how would you describe God's emotion when we return to Him? (vs. 20-24)

8. The story ends with the 'faithful' brother's jealousy towards his brother. Why is forgiveness often so difficult?

9. While the sons both have different offenses the root cause is the same. What is that cause?

Bringing it Home

10. Have you allowed yourself to experience God's unconditional forgiveness? (thought question)

11. Share with the group people you need to forgive...have the group pray for a soft heart.