

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Isaiah 55

Questions written by Pastor Paul Garrison

July 1, 2007



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Small Group Questions on break until the Fall - As Pastor John mentioned a couple of weeks ago, due to the summer time, things slow down a bit in the small group world. Therefore, we won't be writing any Small Group Questions during this time. We'll let you know when this starts up again. Until then, please see our list of suggested curriculum for alternatives. Go to: <http://www.therocksandiego.org/smallgroups/> and click the "Curriculum Resource List" link found at the bottom of the Recent Messages box. Have fun and let us know if you need anything!

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 - ISAIAH 55

Isaiah 55 stands out as one of the most beautiful and hopeful chapters in the Bible. It has a simple theme with far reaching implications. The examples used to prove that one point, that all who thirst for God will be satisfied, give us a slight glimpse into the nature and workings of God, Himself. We see a Being of such great power that anything He says fulfills His purpose, we see a Being of such love in that He welcomes back with complete forgiveness anyone who comes to Him, and we see a Being of such intelligence that we cannot even measure how great His thoughts are. It is no wonder, then, that those who praise God in Heaven "do not cease to say, 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was, and who is, and who is to come.'" (Revelation 4:8) The word 'Holy' means set apart and truly God is set apart from us!

Getting Started

1. What is your favorite characteristic of God?

Digging Deeper

2. After reading Isaiah 55, what are some of your initial thoughts?
3. At first glance seeing a God who is this awe inspiring, it might seem rather intimidating to approach Him. But remember the text uses God's prowess as proof of our ability to be close to Him. Discuss with your group the relationship between God's amazing power and our ability to be close. (Focus some of your time on discussing forgiveness.)
4. In verse 7 in the NASB Bible it says that God will 'abundantly pardon.' Tell the group about a time when you felt God's abundant pardon in your life.

5. Why do you think it's so difficult for us to experience (feel) God's forgiveness in our lives?

6. Since God's forgiveness is a reality, what steps can we take to experience it more?

7. Verses 8 and 9 show us just how much greater God is than us. It says that God's thoughts are higher than our thoughts as the universe (heavens) is higher than the earth. What are some of your thoughts about a God so big?

Bringing it Home

8. If you have any church experience, then you have been exposed to many ideas about God's greatness, but if you're like most of us, the reality of who He is hasn't manifested itself in our lives. If you truly understood, heart, mind, and soul, how awe-some God is, what would change in your life?

9. All throughout the Bible, the people of God took time to mediate on His greatness. Today, with the busyness of our lives, we often spend very little time thinking about God. What are some the consequences to not remembering how great God is?

10. What is your take-home from this study? How will you use it in your life (be specific)?