

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## IMAGE is Everything

Questions written by Pastor Miles

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Would you like to lead your own small group?** – Talk to your Small Group Leader and contact Carolyn York at [carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org](mailto:carolyn.york@therocksandiego.org) or 619.764.5120.

**Outdoor Hospitality Booths** – Would you like to be part of the welcoming committee on Sunday? The Small Group Ministry will be outside on Sundays, September 2, 9, and 16 before each service and would love your help to welcome people. Just email Andy Rodgers at [andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org](mailto:andy.rodgers@therocksandiego.org) or 619.764.5106 with your name, which Sunday(s) and time(s) you'd like to volunteer for. Time slots last 45 minutes (arrive 30 minutes before the service begins).

**Boot Camp** – Learn more about discipleship and growing your faith in Christ at this dynamic 12 week study course. Next course begins Monday, September 24 and Wednesday, September 26. For more information or to register, go to [www.therocksandiego.org/bootcamp](http://www.therocksandiego.org/bootcamp).

**New to the Rock Reception** – If you're new to the Rock, join our pastors in the cafeteria of the Rock Church for fellowship, refreshments and Cold Stone ice cream. Happens every Sunday, 4-5 PM or Tuesday, 7-8 PM.

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](mailto:andy@therocksandiego.org). May God work through your prayers mightily!*

**Reaching the Lost:** Please pray that God would continue to draw the lost both to the Rock and our small groups.

**Current Small Group Leaders/Small Groups:** Pray that God would energize, strengthen and restart groups in the fall months.

**Potential Small Group Leaders:** Pray that our groups would grow people in becoming God's friends.

**Small Group Staff:** Pray that God would renew our strength.

**The Rock Body:** Pray that we would take time to celebrate all that God has done in our midst.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. Philippians 1:27b*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

Our culture is suffering from an identity crisis. From the moment we're born we embark on a lifelong journey for significance. We long for dignity. Knowingly or unknowingly, we pursue meaning, worth, and esteem. But too often our search leads us nowhere because we look in all the wrong places. We begin by comparing ourselves to other people who are esteemed and envied in our society. We are tempted to reshape ourselves based on our view of worldly and natural characteristics and not upon the image of God.

We are bombarded from every media outlet telling us to focus and improve our appearance; surely that'll help get the affirmation we crave. We turn on the computer and within seconds we get an email advising us on how we can look and feel our best. We wonder if we really matter to anyone; will anyone accept us just the way we are.

One thing is for sure, if we start from our culture's humanistic viewpoint, we set the goal and our potential far too low, limiting the capacity of our God-given image and setting ourselves up for failure.

### *Getting Started*

**Small Group Leader:** For question #1, have a few magazines and find some advertisements that give you advice on how to hone your image.

1. What does that source of information tell you about image? (Example: If you saw a picture of someone who had a body, clothes or face that you wanted, what might it inspire you to do or cause you to want to have and why?).
2. What are some ways we define our image outside of God?
3. How do you define image? How would others describe you?
4. As a group, develop a list of words or phrases that express how people describe their image (e.g. trendy, classy, suave, successful, cutting edge, etc.).

## ***Digging Deeper***

Many people in our vanity-driven culture are looking in the wrong mirror to see their true **IMAGE**. Let's dig into Scripture and answer the "right there questions" (the "right there questions" are questions whose answers are right there in the text).

5. Read Psalm 139:14.
  - a. **I—We all have Individual personalities.**
  - b. What do you think it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made? If we were made to be individuals, why do we often want to be like everyone else?
  
6. Read 1 Peter 1:15-16
  - a. **M—As God's moral Mirror, we are to reflect His holiness to the world.**
  - b. Is holiness whatever you make it? Where does holiness come from?
  
7. Read Genesis 1:28.
  - a. **A—We were given Authority to Rule.**
  - b. God gave us dominion over the earth. What didn't God give us dominion over?
  
8. Read John 15:15
  - a. **G—We were intended to be God's friend.**
  - b. What does it look like to be God's friend?
  
9. Read John 3:16
  - a. **E—We have Eternal Spirits.**
  - b. How should an understanding of an eternal relationship with God affect the perception of our image?

## ***Bringing it Home***

5. Do you think it's important to acknowledge that He is the Creator and we are the created? Why or why not?
  
6. Why do you think we resist so strongly to embracing the idea that our image is worthless—unless it truly reflects God's image? What might change in your life if you truly embraced this concept? What would you let go of? What would you find freedom from? What lies would you stop listening to?
  
7. What do you think of the following statement?

*Our image is very complex. It involves how we spend our time, our relationships, what we find meaningful, etc.... It's how we define how we are different from everyone else. What we believe about ourselves becomes self-fulfilling prophecies and actually shapes our future accomplishments. Given the importance of our Image, it's interesting that God only tells us one thing about it—that our identity is found completely in Him. We were made in His image, in His likeness, and that fact should govern our thinking and behavior. –Miles McPherson*

8. If you were to encounter a non-believer trying to better their self-image how might you have a conversation with them about the true source of your image? What do you think that conversation would sound like? What would you want them to know? Spend some time praying with your group that God might give you an opportunity to share. If God lays someone specific on your heart why don't you buy them the CD and invite them to church next Sunday. "It'll improve your IMAGE."