

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

IMAGE is Everything, Part 1

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 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 9 and 16 before each service and would love your help to welcome people. Just email Andy Rodgers at 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.

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.rodgers@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

A while back when I had a bit more time than money, I decided to drive from San Diego to New York City. Before leaving for this cross-country road trip I visited AAA and got a map or what they called a "Trip Tic." A "Trip-Tic" is actually like "old-school" GPS. Maybe your unfamiliar with the concept or have never seen one, but it's like a small notebook with about 100 miles mapped out on each page. This notebook guided me all the way from Mission Valley to my home in Long Island. As long as I followed that map, I stayed on course and consequently got home safe and sound. What are you using as your "Trip Tic"? Whose directions are you using to guide you through your search for your personal identity? What blueprints are you using clarify your identity, who you are and where your life needs to be going? One of the many things we learn about ourselves as we interact with God's Word is that He has already declared who we are and what we are to do. It is our responsibility to search it out.

Getting Started

One of the great things about God's Word is the fact that it constantly reminds you who you are in Him, or in other words, what He truly thinks of you. As a group, take a look at the following list (not in any certain order) and discuss how your image in God's eyes makes you feel.

1. I am created.
2. I am chosen.
3. I am protected.
4. I am complete.
5. I am victorious.
6. I am saved.
7. I am forgiven.
8. I am free.
9. I am loved.
10. I am accepted.

Digging Deeper

Ephesians 2:10 describes God's children in the Bible's original language as His "masterpiece." Unfortunately our enemy works continuously to get us to believe the exact opposite.

1. Read Ephesians 2:8-10.
 - a. **I—We all have Individual personalities.**
 - b. In a real sense God is creating an individual masterpiece with our lives. What *specific* good works do you believe that God is calling you to do? How can you determine what He is saying to you?

2. Read Psalm 119:9-11.
 - a. **M—As God's moral Mirror, we are to reflect His holiness to the world.**
 - b. With so many voices of right and wrong in the world, how can we be sure that the Bible helps us cleanse our way? Why is it greater than any other source?

3. Read Jeremiah 29:11.
 - a. **A—We were given Authority to Rule.**
 - b. What determines the boundaries of your authority and plans for your life?

4. Read John 15:13-14.
 - a. **G—We were intended to be God's friend.**
 - b. Why do you think its imperative to keep God's commands when developing a friendship with Him? What do you think the role of faith and trust play in truly becoming a friend of God?

5. Read John 5:21-24.
 - a. **E—We have Eternal Spirits.**
 - b. According to the Bible, Jesus outlined a very narrow way to heaven. Do you believe that having faith in Christ is the only way a person can receive eternal life? How should Jesus' sacrifice on the cross affect your self-image?

Bringing it Home

5. Have you ever been tempted to try to maintain a certain image that you were willing to put on a “happy face” and ignore the real issues that were eating you up inside? Why do you think we do this? What normally happens when we ignore the real issues eating away at us?

6. The “gospel” simply means “good news.” Sadly, many people when they think about eternal life only key on the life to come, rather than this life in the here and now. If you had to name one specific area of your life that you need the wisdom of God what would that be? Name one step you can take to begin experiencing His wisdom in that area.

7. The first step toward recovering our lost sense of worth is saying, “God, I admit that I need Your help and Your power to find what I’ve been searching for all my life.”
 - a. How do we know God will help us find what we’ve been searching for? What guarantees do we have?

 - b. Why does God insist that we ask Him for help?

 - c. Have you taken this step? If so, how? If not, why not?