

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## IMAGE is Everything, Part 2

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.

**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.rodgers@therocksandiego.org](mailto: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

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. Romans 1:20*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – IMAGE IS EVERYTHING

*Please note: There are more questions than normal this week. Feel free to respond to the ones that relate more to your group; do not feel any pressure to get through every question.*

When I was in high school, I applied to a summer program at MIT. Consequently, my chemistry teacher wrote a letter of recommendation. I never thought someone could think such nice things about me. Have you ever considered why other people may have a greater opinion of you than you do of yourself? When we consider that God has given us the awesome responsibility to care for creation, we must stop and ask ourselves, “Does God know something about us that we do not know?” In fact, responsibility should serve as a self-esteem steroid. The very act of placing responsibility upon a person implies and communicates trust. God must have a very high opinion of our abilities because He has given His children an incredible level of responsibility. Today, we will dig into the message of creation, our relationship to it, and what it says about our God I.M.A.G.E.

### *Getting Started*

When we affirm, compliment and encourage we touch people’s hearts and positively affect their self image. How wonderful it feels when someone, for no apparent reason, calls just to thank us for being part of the group or leaves a little note to remind us how much we matter.

1. Describe a time when you got an unexpected compliment or received a kind note; how did that make you feel?
2. What kind of gesture tends to touch your heart the most? Spend some time going around the group encouraging one another.

### *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 Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; John 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-2.
  - a. **I—Individual personalities are individually creative.**

- b. Who made the earth and everything in it, including you? How has God made you unique?
- c. Are there some unique characteristics about yourself which you are uncomfortable? Please explain.
- d. How could God use your unique personality, skills, and experience to enhance His creation?

2. Read Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1; 50:6.

- a. **M—Moral mirrors interpret the message of creation.**
- b. When God finished with creation He commented that it was “good.” Are there areas in your life that you don’t feel so good about? Often times we try to hide our faults and weaknesses instead of asking for help.
- c. Are there any dynamics presently in your group that would prevent you from having real intimacy?
  - \_\_\_ Inappropriate use of humor
  - \_\_\_ Violation of confidentiality
  - \_\_\_ Judgmental statements
  - \_\_\_ Premature advice-giving
  - \_\_\_ Other
- d. How could your group best address this?

3. Read Genesis 2:15-20.

- a. **A—As a responsible creative creature, we are to take authority and protect creation’s purpose.**
- b. Why do you think that God made such a wondrous creation? If God made creation to glorify Himself, can you list some ways you can accentuate creation’s purpose?

- c. Can you give some examples of evidence for intelligent design of the universe?
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4. Read James 1:17; Job 38:1-11.
    - a. **G—As reliable creative creatures we are to give credit to God for His creativity.**
    - b. When was the last time that you were totally overwhelmed by God’s creativity in creation? Can you describe what you felt?
    - c. The Bible suggests that God created all things “out of nothing.” If this is true, what does this say about His power? What does creation tell us about His goodness?
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5. Read Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11
    - a. **E--We were created to worship for all eternity.**
    - b. What does it mean to truly worship God? Is it limited to singing on Sundays or did God have something much more in mind?
    - c. The Bible tells us that people are eternal, but the rest of creation is passing away. What does this suggest about what humanity’s place in the created order?

### ***Bringing it Home***

6. As a group, look around the room and choose any object. List its functions and purpose given to it by its designer and then list some ways one could violate its design. Finally, consider your own design...what are some ways you could accentuate His design and what are ways you could violate it?
7. Finish the following sentences with those in your group:
  - a. The reason I know an intelligent designer created my heart is because...
  - b. My heart’s purpose is to...
  - c. I will misuse my hearts purpose if I...